

Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of the Minnesota Historical Society

CELEBRATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, IN THE HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ST. PAUL, MINN., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1899.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

Henry L. Moss,

Russell Blakeley,

Greenleaf Clark,

William P. Clough,

George H. Daggett,

William G. Le Duc,

Warren Upham, Secretary.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ADDRESSES. AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting in the afternoon, at half past two o'clock, was opened by Hon. Henry L. Moss, chairman of the Anniversary Committee, who said:

Ladies and Gentlemen: Fifty years ago, on November 15th, 1849, the Minnesota Historical Society was organized under an act of the legislature of the Territory at its first session, which received the approval of Governor Ramsey on October 20th, 1849. To-day we

Library of Congress

have with us, as the present president of the society, that first Governor of the Territory of Minnesota, and I have the pleasure of now asking him to take his seat and preside on this occasion.

As Governor Ramsey stepped forward, he was greeted with great and prolonged applause. The order of the program was then taken up, including the following invocation and addresses.

INVOCATION. BY REV. ROBERT FORBES, D. D.

Almighty God, our Father, we bow reverently in Thy presence. We draw nigh unto Thee. We come with reverence that Thou art the great and mighty God. We approach with filial confidence because Thou art our Father. We render thanks unto Thee that in the order of Thy providence we are permitted to assemble in this place. We remember that every good and perfect gift cometh from Thine hand, and we thank Thee for all that life is and all that it means to us. We give thanks unto God for all the beautiful sights that please the eye, for this beautiful world in which we live, for the forest and the field, for the mountain and the valley, for the land and for the sea, for the sun that shines by day and the moon and the stars by night. Glory be to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We thank Thee for the pleasant sounds that fall upon the ear, for the words of wisdom that Thou revealest to babes, and for the life of childhood. We thank Thee for the world within, the world of reason and memory and hope and imagination. We give thanks for our country, this great land we so proudly call our own, the land of our birth and of our fathers' graves; and we pray, O Lord God, that Thy blessing may still rest upon this nation, so that the world shall continue to rejoice in the light of America's civilization and her pure form of Christianity.

We pray for the blessing of heaven to come upon this great State, this State of Minnesota. O, we thank Thee for what it is, for the prairie and the forest and the mine, for all the treasures that are here; not only for material blessings, but we thank Thee for home and school and college and church, and for all the benevolent institutions that exist. God

Library of Congress

grant His blessing upon this great State. Let Thy mercy come to the men and the women who are here to-day and are particularly interested in the work of this Historical Society. We thank Thee for the brave, manly men, and the womanly women, who came here in the early days and laid the foundations of this State. The wise man said, long ago, "The hoary head is a crown of glory if it be found in the way of righteousness"; and we have ourselves observed that nearly all the hoary heads are found in the way of righteousness. "The wicked shall not live out half their days." God grant His blessing upon the men and women here assembled, and upon all the interests they represent. We thank Thee for our civilization, for the hope given unto us in the Gospel, for the idea of our immortality. O, Lord God, bless the churches of every name, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile, orthodox and heterodox. This poor old world is not so rich in goodness, truth, and devotion and loyalty, and love and self-sacrifice, that we can afford to slight any agency that promises to do even a little good. God bless the churches and the schools, and the teachers in the schools, and the professors in our colleges and universities, all the people who in any way mold and direct public sentiment, and guide us all by Thy counsels.

And we thank Thee for the pleasant, the beautiful dream of the hereafter,—that land where every winter turns to spring, that land that is fairer than day, the land of which the poets have sung, the land of which our mothers have told us, and the land in whose existence we most certainly believe in our own highest and best moments. We thank Thee for the idea that we shall never die, that we shall simply lay this throbbing dust aside and step out into the unending life.

O God of our fathers, help us to be good and true, to walk in the way of righteousness. Bless us and our children, and our children's children, and all the people everywhere, and bring us at last to the glory of that better land. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GREETING. BY HON. JOHN LIND, GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA.

Library of Congress

Human development and culture, in their inception at least, are probably the outgrowth of the unconscious activity of the race to adjust itself to the varying phases of physical nature,—of its environment. Every new condition to which man has been subjected has developed and called into play new faculties, and has added new powers to the individual, and new forces to society. It is for this reason that every migration has resulted in advancement, both of the individual and of the social body of which he became a member.

This principle is nowhere more forcibly illustrated than in our own land, and, I might say, than in our own state. The character of all of our people has been shaped by the influence of one or more successive migrations. That the original settlers on the Atlantic coast, within a few generations, differentiated from the populations from which they had descended, and developed new traits and characteristics in response to the new environment and new conditions to which they were subjected and which they had to meet, is a matter of history. That every subsequent migration to the westward contributed to this accumulation of human experience new elements of the most 554 varied and comprehensive character, cannot be questioned. As a result, I believe it safe to say that we have in the West, and particularly in the Northwest, a population which for energy, versatility, physical and mental power, and genius, is not excelled in the world. This, if I am right in the proposition suggested, is in part due to their manifold experiences inherited and acquired. The wonderful pluck and energy of the pioneers of this state; the ease and facility with which they adjusted themselves to frontier conditions; the phenomenally short time in which they transformed these conditions into those of culture and civilization, and the forethought and acumen with which they shaped our institutions and established agencies for the future development of a high degree of culture and civilization among our people, as evidenced by this society and by our magnificent common school system, seem to me confirmatory of the view advanced.

Library of Congress

That our incomparable growth and progress as a nation and as a state have been in a large measure due to the opportunities which a rich and new country have afforded, and to the dormant faculties in the human mind which new conditions and the new environment have tended to stimulate and develop, is probably conceded by all; and, if conceded, it also admonishes us of the fact that these factors will not be so actively operative in the future as they have been in the past, and one might conclude from this premise that our continued advancement will not be as rapid as heretofore. I think, however, that it is safe to assume that society, at least in this country and in our own state, has arrived at a stage of development and culture whence it will consciously and knowingly continue to guide the development of a higher civilization and better social conditions, notwithstanding that the factors which have unconsciously contributed to that end are not so active as they have been in the past. And to this conscious, positive work for the betterment of society, it seems to me that no single factor, except our common schools, will contribute more than the work of this society and the material which it has accumulated. History has been defined as the biography of society. We know that the individual profits by the conscientious study of the life of other great individuals. As suggested, I believe that civilization has now reached a point where society can profit by the study of its own biography. 555 Your society has written and is writing a biography, not only of pioneers, but of a young commonwealth. No greater work, nor one fraught with more promise for the future, could be undertaken. The people are beginning to appreciate its value, as is shown by more liberal contributions, both from individuals and from the state, from time to time.

On this memorable occasion it does not become me, belonging as I do to a later generation, to occupy much of your time. I congratulate those of you who were present and co-operated in the establishment of this society, fifty years ago, on the work that you then did, and on the wisdom and public spirit that prompted you to such action, and I trust that the present and future generations may profit by your example. Especially does it afford me pleasure to see present with us today the Hon. Alexander Ramsey, who occupied the position which I now hold at the time this society was organized, and who

Library of Congress

has contributed so much to the growth, development, and honor of our state. I know that I voice the feelings of all present when I express the hope that he may long continue with us, enjoying the same physical and mental vigor which have always been his portion. No higher tribute can be paid to the memory of the patriotic men who founded this society, nor any greater compliment to the early members thereof who are still with us, than is implied in the very fact that a commonwealth so young as ours is enabled to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its Historical Society.

To this celebration the honor has been conferred upon me to formally extend you the State's welcome, which I do most heartily, both as a citizen and as the Chief Executive of our great State.

RESPONSE. BY THE PRESIDENT, HON. ALEXANDER RAMSEY.

The members of the Historical Society of Minnesota, after fifty years of effort to bring it to its highest degree of usefulness, which have immeasurably succeeded, felt that upon this occasion, fifty years having transpired and still a number of those who came here at that early day being amongst us, it 556 was a proper thing to have a celebration of the organization of this society. We all feel proud at the response which you have given to the suggestion from us, and hope that you all and others will also be present here to-night.

My friends, if you had been here with us at the earliest days when the light began to shine upon this province of ours, you would scarcely have expected to find in fifty years so large, bright and intelligent an audience as I see before me, now collected here. It is not an ordinary thing to raise upon the plains of a new and primitive country, yet inhabited by its oldest possessors, a population and measures of progress such as we see instituted in this country, such as we have now here. When I came here in 1849 and looked out upon the new State or Commonwealth (which we anticipated it would be in a short time) of Minnesota, you can scarcely imagine what it was like. It was one vast, unoccupied, unpossessed, unimproved country, spreading far and wide, with beautiful plains green

Library of Congress

with herbage, large and small rivers running to the sea, and in every way a beautiful and hopeful prospect. I am glad we have advanced as far as we have. I have been in the whole history of this northwest country, and I might say in the whole history of the United States during the same period of fifty years. There is scarcely an instance in which a population as large and as progressive and intelligent as ours has been brought together in so short a time. Then there was scarcely anything that could be dignified with the name of town or village. I landed here in St. Paul, and, looking around, I saw here and there, and at another distant place, a small cabin, half a house, or something of that kind. When I revisited my old home in Pennsylvania, it was after Mr. Neill had built the first brick house in St. Paul, up near where the Metropolitan Hotel stands. Some of my old neighbors, with the intent, I suppose, of triumphing over a little pride I was exhibiting, asked me, "Have you a brick house in town?" "We have a brick house," said I; and it was the only one we had. It saved me the mortification of saying we had none.

This country, as you know, the territory of the State of Minnesota, is quite large. It is, indeed, within a small fraction of figures, as large as the States of Pennsylvania and New York, which are in the first rank, as to area, among the states 557 of the Union. Nearly all of Minnesota, about as large as both those states, was owned at that time by the Indians. Two great tribes that figure conspicuously in Indian history, the Dakotas and the Ojibways, were here, the Dakotas occupying nearly half the area, and the Ojibways the other half in the north. We happened to be located with our towns and earlier settlements in the southern part of this region, in the Dakota country. And from that early beginning, in fifty years, with the country occupied in wars and troubles of one sort and another, we have been growing to an extent that no one probably at the time anticipated. By even the most farsighted, it could scarcely have been anticipated. We have large towns, quite large towns. Here is one close west of us, probably with a population of two hundred thousand, or more; we in the capital city count somewhat less, but we are very willing to be equal with our neighbor, and may some day attain it. We have other towns of sixty, and twenty, and twelve thousand inhabitants. We have a university which would be the pride of any

Library of Congress

state, surpassed in its number of students by only one or two others in the Union. We have every kind of institution which usually shows the growth of civilization and increased population, and all this has been achieved in fifty years of time. I doubt whether in the whole history of our country any instance of so great progress of a new state can be pointed out.

So late as 1851, after the treaties with the Dakota Indians at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, I was instructed by the government to take a party and proceed to the Red river valley, near the British line, to make a treaty with the Ojibways of Red river, and with those on the west side of the river, for the extinguishment of their title, that the government might distribute lands for homes among the settlers who had come down in great numbers from the Red river country, as it was then called, comprising the Selkirk settlements. This was probably in the month of August or September of 1851. We had a military escort, not a very large one, for our protection in the Indian country; and a great number accompanied the expedition, for one purpose and another. We proceeded to Sauk Rapids. The roads of course were very indifferent, the settlements had just commenced, and there with considerable difficulty we were assisted in crossing the Mississippi river, 558 and thence passed out to the Bois des Sioux river, which is one of the headwaters of the Red river of the North. We passed down the far side of the Red river, and at a point which I suppose to have been about ten miles west of where the city of Fargo now is, we came across a monstrous herd of buffalo. I think there must have been five thousand in it. We traveled with them, and they with us. We were indifferent to each other. We occasionally killed one. And so we went down to near the crossing of the river, near the present town of Pembina. There we camped for three or four weeks and negotiated a treaty with those Indians. In all that distance, I was going to say, in all that long line of four hundred miles. we did not see, excepting those who belonged to our own party, a white man or a white woman, an Indian, or a mixed-blood,—not one in over four hundred miles. We saw no other human beings than those who were with us. Since that time progress has taken place in that formerly uninhabited and unimproved country. Now all that country is occupied by farms,

Library of Congress

villages, and towns; it is cut up into counties; and the organizations which characterize a prosperous and cultured people have followed. Schools have been erected, colleges established, and every kind of benevolent and charitable institution. You have them everywhere, just as perfect as in any state in this Union.

But I need not further recall the past, nor contrast it with the present time, tracing the steps of our advance. These themes will be well considered by those gentlemen who have been specially appointed to address you. They will review the work accomplished by this Historical Society, and the progress of Minnesota and of the United States, during the fifty years since the organization of our society and of Minnesota Territory.

ORGANIZATION AND GROWTH OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. BY GEN. WILLIAM G. LE DUC.

Because I am one of the few surviving members of the Minnesota Historical Society whose record of membership dates back to the year 1850, the year in which the active life of the society began, I have been assigned the task of reciting such of the incidents of organization and growth as may be recapitulated in the brief period of ten to fifteen minutes. The limitation of time will therefore permit me only to outline the beginning and somewhat of the progress of a beneficent literary institution, which in the most unpretentious manner began its existence in a frontier log tavern on Bench street in the then village of St. Paul, fifty years ago. This subject has heretofore been treated by other members of the society, and I can add but little, if anything, beyond a repetition or verification of statements made at previous meetings.

The society had its origin in the suggestion and action of one whose unpopularity at that time and afterward tended to hinder, rather than to promote, any scheme he might have proposed or been associated with. Seeking the real genesis of the Minnesota Historical Society, the reason why the Secretary of the Territory, Charles K. Smith, took active interest in this matter, I found in the printed records of the society, in an address made by

Library of Congress

our venerable President Ramsey, that he surmised that Mr. Smith had been connected with a historical society in his native state, Ohio, and saw the importance of collecting the past and current history of the new country to which he had been sent as secretary of the territorial government. This suggestion is very close to the truth. 560 Mr. Smith and other young men of his age, living in the interior and western part of Ohio, were enthused by the writings and lectures of the learned antiquarian and historian of that state, Hon. Caleb Atwater, a prominent lawyer, member of the legislature, author, lecturer, and United States official, a graduate of Williams College, who emigrated from Massachusetts in 1811 and settled in Ohio at Circleville. This town was located on the banks of the Scioto river, upon the site of what had evidently been a very large and important town of the mound builders, whose circular earthwork gave name to the modern American town of Circleville. The valley of the Scioto had been occupied by a numerous population well enough advanced in the arts and sciences of construction to measure accurately, lay out geometric forms, and construct earthworks that were in a remarkable state of preservation hundreds of years after their abandonment by the builders. No historic record of that people could be found, other than the mounds and fortifications upon which oak trees had grown and fallen and decayed, giving place to, others that had grown to the maturity of hundreds of years. Mr. Atwater devoted much time to a patient examination of these earthworks at Circleville and other places in Ohio, making surveys, maps and records of the contents of mounds, and preserving whatever he found of pottery, stone or metal implements, and other remnants of a vanished and forgotten race, whose monuments proved them to have been a numerous and agricultural people. He published, among other books, a volume entitled "Western Antiquities." which attracted much attention to historic matters. I was a school boy in Ohio at that time. and I speak from personal knowledge of the influence of Mr. Atwater's books and lectures on the youth of that period. We were all antiquarians, collectors, and historical society boys.

Charles K. Smith, who lived at Hamilton, not far from Circleville, was thus indoctrinated with the historical fervor which manifested itself later in the southeast corner room of

Library of Congress

Robert Kennedy's log tavern on Bench street, St. Paul. This room was Mr. Smith's office as the territorial secretary. Here he drew up an act, in two sections, to incorporate the Historical Society of Minnesota, and included as incorporators, with 561 himself, the names of eighteen others, embracing the members of the territorial government (excepting the governor, Alexander Ramsey), and the principal other persons then in Minnesota Territory who would probably feel any interest in the subject. None of the incorporators were consulted; it was assumed that they would not object to be included in an act of incorporation which contained only two sections, and by which no apparent responsibilities were incurred. This act was approved the 20th day of October, 1849, by Governor Ramsey. A certified copy was made November 10th, 1849, by Mr. Smith; and the society was formally organized on November 15th, 1849, in the office of Secretary Smith.

This meeting consisted of the chairman, William Henry Forbes, a Canadian born, then in the service of the American Fur Company, the secretary, Charles Kilgore Smith, and others of the corporate members. L. A. Babcock, David Olmsted, J. C. Ramsey, and Henry L. Moss are shown to have been present by the record of motions which they proposed. The organization of the Society was completed by the election of officers. Alexander Ramsey was elected as president; David Olmsted and Martin McLeod, vice presidents; William H. Forbes, treasurer; and C. K. Smith, secretary. A committee, consisting of L. A. Babcock, Franklin Steele, Judges Goodrich and Cooper, H. L. Moss, Dr. T. R. Potts, and D. B. Loomis, was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and report at a meeting to be held on the second Monday in January, 1850, the date of the first annual meeting fixed by the charter.

Secretary Smith now enlisted the willing services of the Rev. Edward Duffield Neill to attract attention to the society. At a meeting held January 1st, 1850, in the Methodist church, on Market street, an address was delivered by Mr. Neill, the subject of which was, "The French Voyageurs to Minnesota during the Seventeenth Century." This address, which was the first of a series of most interesting and instructive historical contributions made by Rev. Dr. Neill to the Historical Society, attracted the attention of the people of

Library of Congress

Minnesota Territory; and, as it was published and widely distributed, it received praise from many scholars and historians, and put the Minnesota Historical Society upon a plane of respectability. 36 562 With this lecture the rude methods of tradition passed for Minnesota, and the pen of our historian and beloved comrade Neill began the record.

The annual meeting, having been advertised in the Chronicle and Register (an administration paper published in St. Paul), was held on Monday, January 14th, 1850, at the office of C. K. Smith. It secured an attendance of eight, four of whom were of the incorporators; but none of the officers who had been elected was present, excepting the secretary. Six of those recorded as present were young lawyers, whose time was not so much occupied with the duties of their profession at that time as it was subsequently, for they all became active and influential citizens. These were L. A. Babcock, who was attorney general for the Territory, appointed by the governor; Henry L. Moss, who was the first United States attorney for the district of Minnesota; A. Van Vorhes, afterwards a land officer for the United States at Stillwater; James B. Wakefield, who was lieutenant governor of Minnesota for the years 1876 to 1880; Michael E. Ames, an astute lawyer, whose services were in demand in the more important cases in court while he lived, but who died early; and Morton S. Wilkinson, known to most of this audience, who represented the state in the National Congress, first in the Senate, and later in the House of Representatives. Only one of the eight present in that meeting survives, the Hon. Henry L. Moss, whom we are happy to hear answer to the call of his name at each monthly council meeting of the Society, and who is the chairman of the committee in charge of the organization and conduct of this semi-centennial celebration.

Judge David Cooper, who had been named as one of the incorporators, presided over the meeting. A report of the committee on a constitution and by-laws was called for, and was made nominally by Mr. Babcock as chairman, and was read by the secretary. This required discussion and amendment; and, on, motion of Mr. Wilkinson, the constitution and by-laws were taken up article by article, amended, and adopted.

Library of Congress

To this constitution and the by-laws were appended the names of one hundred and twenty-two persons as resident 563 members, embracing nearly every white man in the Territory, who by article tenth of the by-laws were expected to pay the initiation fee of one dollar and sign the constitution before participating in the business of the society. The list contains the names of a few who came somewhat later than January, 1850, my own name being one of these.

The next meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society was its second annual meeting, held in the Methodist Episcopal church, on January 13th, 1851. It was presided over by the president of the society, Governor Ramsey, assisted by the vice presidents, Hon. David Olmsted and Martin McLeod. On this occasion the president delivered an address; and Hon. Martin McLeod read an interesting letter from the Rev. S. R. Riggs, the subject of which was "The Destiny of the Indian Tribes." This letter included a brief and modest notice of the work of the author in compiling a dictionary of the Dakota language. Mr. George L. Becker also read a paper, contributed by Henry R. Schoolcraft, LL. D., on the "History and Physical Geography of Minnesota."

Subsequently, at an adjourned meeting held on January 29th, with Governor Ramsey presiding, the society adopted a resolution pledging its aid for the publication of a "Dakota Lexicon," compiled by Rev. Mr. Riggs and his associates of the Dakota Mission. A committee of twenty-one members was appointed to procure subscriptions for this purpose. In June, 1852, this work, comprising a grammar and dictionary of the Dakota (or Sioux) language, was published by the Smithsonian Institution, under the patronage of the Historical Society of Minnesota. It forms a quarto volume of 338 pages, being the fourth volume in the series of Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

This unique publication, and its distribution among colleges, libraries, and historical societies, gave rise to much favorable comment and expressions of admiration for a state in embryo whose people had taken such timely action in the preservation of the unwritten language of a nation of aborigines, who must necessarily disappear or be absorbed by

Library of Congress

the English-speaking white race. It was also the means of securing many and valuable exchanges and donations of books for our library.

564

From that second annual meeting may be dated the active virile existence of the Minnesota Historical Society, whose birth and nursing care up to this time had been the one notable, commendable public work of Charles Kilgore Smith. He became very unpopular and objectionable to the people of Minnesota; and complaints sent to Washington, demanding his removal, became so frequent and earnest that his sponsor, Secretary Thomas Corwin, a relative by marriage, advised his resignation. He left the Territory some time during the season of navigation in 1851.

The Executive Council of the Historical Society filled the vacancy in the office of secretary resulting from Mr. Smith's departure by the election of the Rev. Edward D. Neill, November 18th, 1851. No better appointment than this could have been made. The business of the society was now entrusted to a man who graduated from Amherst College before he was nineteen years old, was the next year a student in Andover Theological Seminary, and then completed his studies in theology with that eminent master and scholar, the Rev. Albert Barnes. Mr. Neill was an enthusiastic, tireless student of history, who mined to the bottom for facts; and facts only, as he understood them, would satisfy his truth-loving nature. He entered upon his duties as secretary, and prosecuted his work for the society during twelve years as a labor of love and not of profit. His contributions to the publications of the society commenced with the first address in the Methodist church on New Year's day, 1850, and continued with more or less frequency throughout his service as secretary; and even to the very day of his sudden and lamented death, in 1893, he constantly had in contemplation some interesting topic for the Historical Society records.

To the Rev. Dr. Neill this society is chiefly indebted for the high position it attained in the favorable estimate of scholars during his secretaryship, for the great increase of its library and museum, and for its growing popularity with the intelligent reading members

Library of Congress

of our legislatures and with scholars everywhere. Amid all the varied duties of his life, as organizer of churches, schools, and colleges, superintendent of education for the Territory and State, chaplain of the immortal 565 heroes of the First Minnesota Regiment in the Virginia campaign, secretary to Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, consul in Ireland, and professor in Macalester College, Whatever time was not occupied in the faithful discharge of the duties of his position, he gave to historical studies and publications, which, continuing through more than forty years, contributed greatly to the honor of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Among the early and zealous friends of our society, to whom much praise is due, was another immigrant from Ohio, Daniel A. Robertson, who was the editor of a Democratic paper in Territorial days. He deplored the impecunious condition of our society, whose meetings were held at the offices or rooms of the members, and whose freight bills and postage expenses were matters of personal solicitation. Resolutely he set about the task of collecting money to purchase lots and erect thereon a suitable fireproof building, in which to preserve our valuable accumulations that were then stored, on sufferance, wherever rents were not demanded. Mr. Robertson joined with him other prominent citizens, and made earnest and persistent application for a room in the capitol, which was finally granted for temporary use. November 27th, 1855, the society met for the first time therein. We were extremely gratified to see our books arranged on shelves, and the donations of various kinds properly displayed, even though it was but a temporary shelter enjoyed at the will of state officials.

Mr. Robertson vigorously pushed his scheme for raising money from the sale of life memberships. At the annual meeting on January 15th, 1856, he reported the sale of sixty-two life memberships at twenty-five dollars each, and was authorized to close a conditional purchase he had, made of two lots on Wabasha street. Here it was determined to excavate and lay the foundation for the proposed building.

Library of Congress

By means of a grand parade and ceremony in laying the corner stone, it was expected that favorable attention would be drawn to the building proposition, that life memberships would sell freely, that citizens would make liberal subscriptions, and that the legislature would contribute what might be lacking. The laying of the corner stone June 24th, 1856, was the occasion of the most notable procession and public display that had ever occurred in Minnesota. The military authorities at Fort Snelling sent their full band. Major Sherman and his battery (not W. T. Sherman, afterward General, but Thomas W. Sherman, who had won fame in Mexico with his "Flying Artillery") headed the procession, which marched through the streets and to the foundation, where the corner stone was to be laid.

Hon. George L. Becker, who was mayor of St. Paul at that time, being then as now an honored citizen of Minnesota, delivered an address. Lieut. M. F. Maury, of the United States Navy, who had already distinguished himself and honored his country by his original scientific work in charting ocean currents and making routes for the safer and more speedy navigation of the Atlantic Ocean, also gave an address. The corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies; and there, I trust, it remains safe, with its contents undisturbed, up to this day.

The financial storm of 1857 was approaching, and life memberships were unsalable; conditional subscriptions stopped at \$15,000, some were withdrawn, and others were expected to be withdrawn; and the legislature declined to make any appropriation for the building. Col. Robertson, discouraged and beaten, went to Europe for a year's rest and recreation.

The room at the capitol occupied by our society was demanded for the use of the state auditor, and the Executive Council rented a small room adjoining the St. Paul Library room in the Ingersoll Block, at the southeast corner of Third and Wabasha streets. This was the humble home of the society during the incumbency of Mr. Charles E. Mayo as secretary,

Library of Congress

from 1864 to 1867, a period in which the unsettled condition of public affairs prevented any considerable growth.

On the 21st of January, 1867, John Fletcher Williams was elected secretary. He served in that capacity faithfully and efficiently until his resignation in 1893, a period of twenty-six years, during which time there was a constant and increasing interest exhibited by the people of the state and by the successive state legislatures. The society was recognized as a state institution by appropriations of money that enabled its officers to largely extend its usefulness, and to increase materially 567 its valuable library of books and newspapers. Notwithstanding the impairment of its property by the fire that on March 1st, 1881, destroyed the old capitol, in which were its library and museum, the society has experienced a constant and healthy growth, under different secretaries, up to the present day. Now, under the present careful and efficient management, it is in the front rank with any similar institution of the same age in any state or country.

I have passed lightly over the more recent growth of the society, for it would require an extension of the time allotted to me for the presentation of this subject. To realize that our growth has been phenomenal for the half century, it is only necessary to enumerate the number and consider the value of the publications of the society, and the catalogue of its library, which now contains a grand total of 63,500 volumes, bound and unbound; and to note that our unique and most valuable collection of Minnesota newspapers commences with the first number of the first paper published in Minnesota Territory in the year 1849, and continues down to the present day. The library is now receiving regularly four hundred and twenty-one daily, weekly and monthly newspapers of Minnesota, which are bound when volumes are completed, and are carefully preserved in a fireproof room.

These daily and weekly newspapers and periodicals afford the truest, the fullest, the most impartial image of the age we live in, that can be derived from any single source; and this collection is recognized as invaluable for reference by students of history and of politics, by lawyers and searchers for titles of real estate in all parts of Minnesota, and for many

Library of Congress

other matters of record nowhere else obtainable. Constant use is made of these files, by personal inspection, by all classes of citizens, who often come to the library for this purpose from distant parts of the state.

The young men who met just fifty years ago, on November 15th, 1849, for the organization of the Minnesota Historical Society, and on January 14th, 1850, to discuss and adopt its constitution and by-laws, in the little room of the log tavern, were there at the solicitation of Secretary Smith, who was pushing a fad, for which presumably none of his associate incorporators 568 of the society had much if any sympathy. They, like others, were absorbed in the strife for the human necessities of food and clothing, and in the endeavor to acquire a competency, if not wealth, through the opportunities offering in a newly settled country. It is safe to say that no one of them, not even our worthy chairman of the committee having this celebration in charge, ever imagined he might live to see that society an honored institution of the state, with a library of between sixty and seventy thousand volumes, referred to by persons from every country in the state, while the work of the society in gathering and publishing the history of Minnesota and of the Northwest is known and highly esteemed throughout the civilized world.

As those of us pioneers who survive to celebrate this half century of existence and growth of our society contemplate the result of our seemingly fortuitous action, we now see the fact that, while we were mostly absorbed in the development of our heritage, in the conquest of this portion of our peerless continent, by the plowing, the planting, the harvesting, trading, and building towns and cities, we did not recognize, as we might have done, the invincible spirit of human progress which was then as now the directing power that suggested action. In our forecast of the possibilities of the next fifty years, it is well to remember that this is the electric age, and that our society is a component part of the model state of the world, the State of Minnesota. All things attainable by any people are also possible to the people of Minnesota and to this Historical Society.

THE LIBRARY, MUSEUM, AND PORTRAIT COLLECTION OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. BY NATHANIEL PITT LANGFORD.

In the legislative act incorporating this society, approved by Governor Ramsey October 20th, 1849, dearly four weeks before the first meeting and organization of this society, its object was stated to be "the collection and preservation of a library, mineralogical and geological specimens, Indian curiosities, and other matters and things connected with, and calculated to illustrate and perpetuate the history and settlement of said Territory."

Wider scope of the society's duties to the Territory was declared in an additional act passed somewhat more than six years later, as approved March 1st, 1856, of which the third section says: "The objects of said society, with the enlarged powers and duties herein provided, shall be, in addition to the collection and preservation of publications, manuscripts, antiquities, curiosities, and all other things pertaining to the social, political and natural history of Minnesota, to cultivate among the citizens thereof a knowledge of the useful and liberal arts, science, and literature." In view of this exceedingly generous definition of its fields of labor, this society may well affirm, as did the Apostle Paul, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient."

The work of the society in accumulating material possessions has been limited, first, to its large and very valuable library, open from half-past eight o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon as a public and free reference library; second, the collection of a museum of historical relics, illustrative of the conditions of the pioneer settlement of 570 Minnesota, of the Sioux war, and the civil war, of the aboriginal people who built the thousands of prehistoric mounds in this state, and of the Sioux (or Dakotas) and the Ojibways who were living here when the first white men reached this region; and, third, its collection of portraits of pioneers and other prominent citizens of this state, with other portraits, pictures and framed documents, illustrating the history of Minnesota, of the whole Northwest, and indeed of the whole United States.

THE LIBRARY.

In one few minutes allotted to me for these remarks I will speak first and chiefly of the historical treasury which the society has gradually provided for itself and for all the people of Minnesota, in its carefully selected library, now numbering about 63,500 titles of books and pamphlets. While the aim of the society has constantly been to gather and preserve all publications issued in Minnesota, and all relating to Minnesota, wherever they may be published, we have also given great attention to the collection of everything published concerning local history, as of townships, in all the older states, as also in the new states of the West and of the Pacific coast.

What immigrant from any eastern part of our country, or son or daughter of such immigrant, does not still feel an interest in the old home and hearthstone, the old township of their nativity, or the homes where lived fifty years ago the fathers and mothers of the present generation? Many who came here in the early times, and have endured hardships and won success in building up this great Commonwealth, now, in the well-earned leisure of declining years, go back in memory to the old township of their childhood in the Granite State, it may be, or the Bay State, or the Keystone State, which, with all the other states east of us contributed largely to the building up of Minnesota.

This society's library contains many volumes, mostly nowhere else to be found in this state, concerning the detailed local history of all those older parent states. To particularize and give more definite expression of the richness of the library in this department of American township histories, 571 it may be noted that, according to the librarian's inventory. made two months ago, our number of bound volumes of township and strictly local histories was 90 for Maine, 100 for New Hampshire, 35 for Vermont, 460 for Massachusetts, which is richer in these histories than any other state, 40 for Rhode Island, and 100 for Connecticut; besides many for New York and all the states reaching thence southward and westward.

Library of Congress

Our collection strictly relating to Minnesota, however, far exceeds that here gathered for any other state, if we include the narrations of explorers, visitors, and the many observant travelers who have written about us, and the books issued from our territorial and state government, as the journals and laws of the legislature, reports and proceedings of the departments of state executive affairs, and similar publications of our universities, colleges, commercial, charitable, and. religious institutions. All these books describing Minnesota, her people, their work and their history, number about 1,075 volumes, besides about 1,500 pamphlets in this department. To every one who wishes to know with accuracy any part of our state history, its resources, what it promises to any contemplated new industry or investment, we would say, Come to this society's library, ask for its information on the subject, and you will understand the utility of this storehouse of knowledge.

These Minnesota books and pamphlets, although of inestimable value, are yet very far surpassed, in respect to numbers, magnitude and historical importance, by this society's great department of Minnesota newspapers. Our earliest newspaper issue for this state was the first number of the Minnesota Pioneer (which has now become the Pioneer Press of St. Paul), published by James M. Goodhue on the 28th of April, 1849, a few weeks previous to the establishment of the government of Minnesota as a Territory. A complete series of that newspaper, and of nearly all others published in Minnesota during the past fifty years, has been collected and preserved by our society. We are now receiving, by donation from the editors and publishers, 421 newspapers of this state, daily, weekly and monthly. They are preserved with the greatest care and are bound in ponderous volumes, the yearly increase of this department 572 being about 300 bound volumes. Their number on September 1st of this year was 4,250 volumes. They are a priceless treasury of materials for future historians, being in fact a detailed history of the development of the state, of all its counties and of its separate townships, from their beginning to the present time. This newspaper collection is kept in an extensive fireproof vault. which is a part of

Library of Congress

the society's rooms in this building. It is accessible to all who wish to consult it, and it is so arranged that any paper of any date can be readily found.

There are also other departments of the library which are of great interest to our people, and which are daily consulted by many readers. The growth of our patriotic societies has brought increased attention to histories of the Colonial and Revolutionary times preceding and beginning our national existence, with inquiries for records of ancestry, in the hope of tracing descent from soldiers of the Colonial wars and of the American Revolution. To all desiring to make any research of this kind. the very comprehensive department of American Genealogy, represented in this library by more than 1,100 bound volumes, and about 450 pamphlets, affords very ample resources of information, equalled only by three or four other libraries in the whole United States.

Another and much larger part of the library consists of the publications of the general government, such as the Congressional Record. and the reports of the many departments and bureaus of the Federal service, among which those of the United States Patent Office are perhaps the most frequently consulted. All the books, pamphlets, and maps issued by our national government are received gratuitously, this being a designated depository library.

THE MUSEUM

One of the parts of the society's proper work which has received little consideration, is its museum. The needs of the library forbid the use of space in the present rooms to display a great portion of our museum collection, that which presents the work of the aboriginal people of Minnesota, the builders of the mounds, and the Indians of more recent times who have been displaced during this half century. The society is indebted 573 debted to one of its life members, Hon. J. V. Brower whose report upon the sources of the Mississippi river forms the seventh volume of the society's publications, for gifts of many thousand stone and copper implements and other products of aboriginal handiwork,

Library of Congress

which will form a most instructive exhibit of our museum when the society shall remove to the ampler rooms assigned for it in the new Capitol. We are assured by the most learned archaeologists of America, who have examined some of these relics, that they were buried in the mounds where they were found long before the Christian era.

PORTRAITS.

But I must hasten to add a few words concerning the society's collection of portraits. A hundred and twenty portraits are now displayed in the rooms of the society, besides twenty group pictures which comprise 788 portraits. Nearly all these are of pioneers and founders of Minnesota, or of citizens who in more recent years have had a prominent part in the history and development of the state. There are also many other pictures, as of ancient buildings, monuments, paintings of historic scenes, etc., and many framed documents, including a letter of George Washington, written in 1754, which is in the case holding the Washington chair. This collection is the most interesting and attractive part of the society's possessions for visitors who have only a short time to spend in our rooms.

Sitting in the monthly meetings of the Executive Council of this society, I have often thought of the great work done by the founders and leaders of Minnesota, whose portraits look forth from the walls of our assembly room. Observing the earnest, resolute expression of those faces, I recall what Horatio Seymour said to me in our native state of New York, nearly fifty years ago: "It is work, with its reward or failure,—the experience of life,—which is expressed by faces and portraits, rather than the deep inherent character received from ancestry."

INCREASE OF THESE COLLECTIONS.

The present space occupied by the library, portrait collection, and museum, is quite inadequate. Each of these fruits of the society's work tends to grow, and they have outgrown the limits which seemed very liberal when the present rooms began to be occupied sixteen years ago. The growth of a man continues only fifteen or twenty years,

Library of Congress

and that of a tree perhaps half a century; but of a living and useful library or museum or state portrait collection, there is no natural bound of growth. The duty and destiny of the society here founded and active, to-day completing its first fifty years, imply for it a continuance in the accumulation and preservation of these possessions for the educational and the moral advancement of the people.

The poet Milton gave expression to the duty of preserving valuable books, when he wrote:

“As good almost kill a man, as kill a good book. Who kills a man, kills a reasonable creature, God's image; but he who destroys a good book, kills reason itself, kills the image of God, as it were, in the eye. Many a man lives a burden to the earth; but a good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life. It is true, no age can restore a life, whereof perhaps there is no great loss. ... We should be wary, therefore, what persecutions we raise against the living labors of public men,—how we spill that seasoned life of man preserved and stored up in books; since we see a kind of homicide may thus be committed, sometimes a martyrdom; and. if it extend to the whole impression, a kind of massacre, whereof the execution ends not in the slaying of an elemental life, but strikes at that ethereal and sift essence, the breath of reason itself,—slays an immortality, rather than a life.”

The volumes on our library shelves have been characterized by some writer as our truest friends, who are never applied to in vain. who are never out when we knock at the door, of whom the announcement “not at home” is never made when we call. They are friends who in the highest as well as in the deepest moods may be applied to, and will never be found wanting.

RETROSPECTION.

It is time to bring these considerations to a close.

The men and women of the half century which we review to-day. have built this great Commonwealth. They and we 575 shall vanish, but our work as citizens of this state, and as members of the Minnesota Historical Society, will endure, and will be carried forward by others. Let them rightly value their heritage, and transmit it, increased, to their successors.

Few of those who placed themselves in the van of the movement for the organization of this society have lived to witness this day of her grandeur and triumph. It is said that, when two armies have joined battle, the report of musketry and cannon shot does not fall on the listening ear with regularity, but at intervals, now perhaps with a steady roar, and now in groups of sharp explosions, and then again in single scattered shots along the field, and then, after a long interval, and when there seemed a flag of truce hung out, startling us with a succession of quick reports, and strewing the ground with the slain. This is the way our own ranks have been thinned; sometimes in single scattered strokes; but we can see that the fight with the Great Conqueror has lately grown warm on this part of the field, when we number those of our members who within the last half of this decade have gone from us. But a time should never come, in the history of Minnesota, when the memory of those who, in the beginning, as in the later years, laid deep and broad the foundations of this society, should cease to be venerated. And as we crown the graves of the dead with flowers, let the pathway of the living be brightened by the rewards of a grateful people.

576

RECOLLECTIONS OF PERSONS AND EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MINNESOTA. BY BISHOP HENRY B. WHIPPLE.

Mr. President, Members of the Historical Society, Ladies and Gentlemen: I preface my address by saying that I have an abiding faith in the Providence of God. Since the day when Bishop Stephen Langton, at the head of the nobles of England, wrung from King John the Magna Charta, the English-speaking race has stood for constitutional government. And this race, made up of the best blood of the northern races of Europe, represents loyalty to government and the rights of the individual. One hundred and fifty

Library of Congress

millions of men speak the English language, and one-third of the population of the world are under English-speaking governments. This loyalty is the characteristic of the people of the North Star State.

The development of the West in the last sixty years is a marvel. In my boyhood. after the journey by stage-coach from Syracuse to Cleveland. I remember standing on the wharf in Cleveland and watching the vessels as they were loaded with flour and pork for the border settlers on lake Michigan. In 1844 I travelled from Cincinnati to Cumberland. Maryland. by stage-coach. The people of the East were prejudiced against the West, as the home of chills and fever and other kindred diseases. Minnesota was a *terra incognita* , and the school maps showed the Falls of St. Anthony as the outpost of civilization.

My friend. Mr. Trowbridge of Detroit, who came in 1820 as a clerk to Governor Cass of the same city, copied the first United States census of the west, which included all trading posts as far as the Rocky mountains. There were nine thousand 577 and eight hundred and seventy souls. There were three white citizens in Chicago, Dr. Westcott, physician to the Indians, Beaubien, a fiddler, and John Kinzie, an Indian trader. General Sibley, when a boy, was clerk for the Northwest Fur Company, and it was his duty to go for the mail which was brought to Detroit once a week on horseback.

When Minnesota was admitted to the Union, Congress generously gave two sections of land in each township for school purposes, the reason being that Minnesota was so remote from civilization that it would be generations before it was settled.

I visited Minnesota in 1853, and well remember the shout of laughter from my fellow travellers on the Steamboat, as they saw among some scattered houses at Winona, a shanty bearing the sign, "Bank." St. Paul and St. Anthony were then flourishing villages. A friend who had come to Minnesota in 1844, and who had a small interest in the townsite of Minneapolis, said afterward to me. "I was sure that it could never be a town. I had received for my share the lots on which the Nicollet Block stands. I traded them for a pair of horses

Library of Congress

which I sold for one hundred and fifty dollars, and, feeling sure of the location of the future city of the Northwest, I invested it at Point Douglas.” He added, with a smile, “I have it today.”

As we were coming up the Mississippi on one occasion, a passenger, who spoke disparagingly of the West, was asked by a borderman, where he was from. “From Vermont,” was the answer. “I am from Vermont,” said the first speaker. “I know Vermont and I know Minnesota. My father had three sons, and two of us came to Minnesota. Last year I went home to the old farm, and in the morning I went out to look at the fields. When I came in, I said to my brother, ‘How are you getting on, John?’ ‘O,’ he answered, ‘we manage to get a living, and that is about all.’ ‘Why, John,’ I said. ‘I don’t wonder that you are poor. If I had a man in my employ who would reap a field of oats and leave as much standing as there is in that field yonder. I would discharge him at once.’ ‘Why, Bill,’ exclaimed my brother. ‘*that’s* the crop!’”

In 1859 I was elected the first Bishop of the Diocese of Minnesota. The State was then beginning to feel the tide of its incoming population, and the east had begun to give ear to the rumor of a western state free from malaria, with fertile soil, 37 578 good water, and abundant forests. It brought to us an intelligent population, many having been drawn hither in quest of health.

I doubt if any state in the Union has had a better class of pioneers to lay its foundations. They were honest, industrious, courageous, and hospitable. I have no memories dearer than those of the warm-hearted welcomes of those early settlers.

When I was in England in 1864, where there was much prejudice against the North, on account of the Civil War, one of the Fellows of Oxford, at a dinner given in my honor, spoke warmly of the South, and said: “I have been told that there is very little culture in the North, and that gentlemen are to be found only in the South. I have heard that it is not an uncommon thing in the West for two men to occupy the same bed.” Then turning to me,

Library of Congress

he asked if it were true. I answered, with a smile, "It is quite true. I have thirty clergy in my diocese, and I have slept with eighteen of them." The guests looked incredulous, and I continued: "Gentlemen. my diocese is as large as England, Scotland, and Wales. I drive three thousand miles a year over the prairies. On a winter night, with the thermometer below zero, I come to a log house containing one room. I receive a hospitable welcome. When bedtime comes, a sheet is fastened across one end of the room, an impromptu resting place is made on the floor for the family, and the only bed is given to me. Since having been lost on the prairie in a blizzard, I have often taken one of my clergy with me on my journeys. Will you tell me what I shall do? Shall I share my bed with my brother, or shall I turn him out in the howling storm to freeze to death? Even English hospitality cannot exceed that of the frontier settler." The look of surprise gave way to hearty cheers.

The spirit of pioneer kindness was everywhere. and to none am I more indebted than to the drivers of the Merriam, Blakeley and Burbank Stage Company. Whenever I drove up to an inn, some one of the cheery voices would cry out. "Bishop, I know just what old Bashaw wants. Go right in, and I will give him the best of care!" I would as quickly have offered a gratuity to my dearest friend.' as to one of those generous souls.

Time would fail me to tell the story of the brave lives of some of those frontier men who gave me their love,—men like Peter Robert, the Indian trader, who, when asked if he knew 579 Bishop Whipple, answered, "Yes, he's a sky pilot, and always straight!"

The early history of the State was marked by very great trials. The attempt to build our first railways and its failure led to repudiation of the state bonds. It gave us a dishonored name in financial circles in the East, and deprived us of that sympathy and help which is so needed in the founding of a new state. I have often blushed when eastern friends have asked, "Why has Minnesota repudiated her bonded debt?" But all honor to the brave hearts who unfalteringly labored to remove the stain!

Then came the massacre of 1862, which desolated our entire border, and swept eight hundred of our citizens into nameless graves. In this brief review of events and men that have helped to form the history of the state, I must not omit a tribute of love to the heroic red men who have been a part of the flock entrusted to my care. You all know the sad condition of our Indian affairs forty years ago. In my acquaintance with sin and suffering, I had found nothing more terrible than the degradation and misery in the Indian country, much of which was the result of the wrong and robbery which we had inflicted on this hapless race. During that holocaust of murder in August, 1862, the only light which came was in the bravery of the Christian and friendly Indians, who, surrounded by thousands of their hostile brethren, did all that it was possible for them to do to ameliorate the condition of the suffering captives, and who rescued two hundred white women and children whom they delivered to General Sibley. The names of these brave heroes cannot be too often repeated. Among them were Other Day, Simon Anagmani, Paul Mazakuta, Lorenzo Lawrence, Taopi, Iron Shields, Good Thunder, Wakinyantawa, and others. After the failure of the special agent to report facts, the Secretary of the Interior asked me to send him a list of the Indians who had shown their fidelity to the whites throughout the massacre. I spent three weeks in careful investigation and submitted my report to General Sibley and Dr. Williamson, who endorsed it. To make assurance doubly sure, I asked the Government to employ Dr. J. W. Daniels to distribute the funds appropriated, and to make further investigations. He found my report in every respect true.

580

General Sibley made Good Thunder one of his chiefs of scouts, and I have several letters from General Sibley testifying to the absolute fidelity of Good Thunder throughout the entire massacre. I knew him then, as I have known him all through these forty years, as a hero.

Some years later, General Custer asked me to send him thirty of these friendly Indians as scouts, when he made the reconnoissance of the Black Hills. On their return. he wrote me:

Library of Congress

"I cannot permit these Indians to return to their homes without testifying to their uniform good character. I do not simply say that they have been obedient, but I doubt whether any village could turn out more exemplary men."

The Government confiscated all the annuities and lands of the Sioux, making no discrimination in behalf of those who had imperilled their lives for us. And to this hour this great wrong has not been redressed.

A few years after the outbreak, came the plague of locusts, which lasted for several years. One day the Governor of the State met me and said: "There is a scare in the southwest about the locusts, and as you are travelling over that part of the country, will you send me the facts about the matter?" When I reached Fairmont, I saw near the inn a field of wheat four or five inches in height, and a few hours later every sign of vegetation had disappeared. I swept my hand through the cloud of locusts and placed the result in a wide-mouthed bottle—a hundred and twenty in number—and sent it to the Governor. When experiments were being tried in vain to destroy the plague, I stopped one day at a house where I saw a distressed farmer gazing upon his half-ruined fields, and asked if he had read in the Pioneer of a way in which the crops could be saved. "What is it?" he asked. "Put a windrow of moistened hay," I replied, "on the windward side of your field and set fire to it, and the smoke will drive the locusts away? The farmer gave a low whistle, and answered, "Bishop, I tried it, and the little pests came down to warm their legs by my fire."

The settlements at that time were scattered, and very few of them numbered a thousand inhabitants. The farming communities were isolated, and I often drove twenty miles without seeing a house. My first service in Minneapolis was in a rude wooden chapel, while in other parts of the state I held service in wayside inns, stores, log-houses, and in the forest.

581

Nothing added more to the promise of the new state than the high character of its professional men. Wherever the men of the legal profession are men of high character,

Library of Congress

there will be found in the community a nice sense of commercial honor; and wherever there is the reverse, trickery and fraud will follow. I could call over a long roll of the legal profession of our state, the peers of their brethren of the most favored cities of the East.

Let me mention one name, that of Edward O. Hamlin of St. Cloud, the honored judge of that circuit. A murder had been committed, and the exasperated citizens judged the criminal by mob law, and hanged him. Some of the most prominent citizens of the county notified Judge Hamlin that he must not charge the grand jury with reference to this deed, and that if he did, he could never again be elected. Judge Hamlin paid no attention to the threat. but charged the jury in one of the most manly appeals which ever came from a judicial bench. When I read it. I said to my friend. "Hamtin. I would rather have made that charge of yours than to be President of the United States."

Minnesota has a long list of jurists like Nelson. Mitchell, Ripley, Williston. Gilfillan, Severance, and others, whose judicial ermine is without a stain. There are, however, some exceptions among the lawyers. I remember one of my Indians who employed a lawyer to prepare some legal papers. On paying him his fee. the Indian asked for a receipt. "You do not need a receipt," said the lawyer, "why are you so anxious about it?" The Indian answered, "Since becoming a Christian I have tried to keep my accounts square. and when the Day of Judgment comes I can't take time to go to the bad place to look you up to get my receipt."

The medical profession has been nobly represented. When I visited Dr. Willey on his death bed, I remember with what loving interest he called over the names of his professional brethren, who, he said, would be an honor to any state.

Many of those early settlers are now occupying positions of trust and eminence in commercial circles, reached by integrity and industry. While our state has been represented by men of different religious creeds, there has been unusual freedom from the rancor and bitterness of sectarian strife.

The character of our people has been exhibited in its citizen soldiery. I can never forget a Sunday in 1861, at the beginning of our Civil War, when I stood on the field at Fort Snelling in the midst of a thousand men and preached, to them on love and loyalty to country. That night they enlisted as the First Regiment of Minnesota Volunteers. I met them again at the battle of Antietam, when the ground was covered with the dead and dying, and receiver scores of last messages from brave hearts to the loved ones at home. That night, when at General McClellan's request I held a thanksgiving service at his headquarters, he said to me, with tears in his eyes, "Bishop, it would wrong other brave men to say that your Minnesota boys are the bravest men in the army, but I will say that no general ever commanded braver men than the Minnesota First."

Some months after the battle of Gettysburg, I celebrated the Holy Communion at the headquarters of General Meade, when he paid a like tribute to the bravery of Minnesota soldiers.

One looks back with amazement at the ignorance manifested as to the resources of Minnesota. I was in London when our esteemed friends, Edmund Rice and Colonel Crooks, sought to interest English capitalists in our railways. I was asked by some bankers as to the character of the country along the line of the proposed St. Paul and Pacific railway. I said that there Was no better land in the world, and that if the country west of St. Paul and tributary to the Red River Valley were cultivated as in England, it would feed. the entire population of England. My remarks were received with incredulity.

In 1870 some Holland bankers, whom I met in Italy, asked my opinion of the same St. Paul and Pacific railway, and stated that they held a large amount of its bonds. I said, "The railway has been built in advance of the population. It may be years before it becomes a paying investment, but the day will come when it will be one of the foremost railways in the world." They, too, doubted my statement. I advised them to care for this property, and suggested the names of General H. H. Sibley, John L. Merriam, and J. E. Thompson,

Library of Congress

as men upon whose advice they could rely. They did not seek the 583 advice, and some years later disposed of their property to Mr. Hill and his associates at a great sacrifice.

Time will not permit me to call over the names inwrought in the history of our goodly state. There was Henry T. Welles, the most generous of men, a clear thinker and scholar, who stood through his entire life for the best interests of the state.

General H. H. Sibley, who came here as the chief factor of. the Northwest Fur Company, when the only settlement in Minnesota was the trading post at Mendota, was one of the most genial, clear-headed and warm-hearted men I have known, the friend of the Indians and an honored and loyal citizen.

Col. D. A. Robertson, an encyclopædia of learning, was one of those rare men whose friendship is a lifelong blessing. Henry and Edmund Rice were the most generous of friends, whose names will be remembered as faithful public servants. I have not spoken of the living members of this society, Ramsey, McKusick, Le Due, Pillsbury, Blakeley, Moss, and others, whose lives are inwrought in the history of the state.

In its early history, our state had a goodly number of devoted clergy, as the Rev. Dr. Mattocks, beloved of all; the Rev. Dr. Neill, the painstaking historian; the Rev. Dr. Gear, the scholar and Christian priest; the devoted Father Ravoux; and many other sainted men who lived and worked for others.

I have spoken of the absence of strife among Christians. In 1863, President Lincoln appointed Bishop Grace of the Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. Dr. Williamson, Presbyterian, and myself, to visit the Ojibways and make a report upon their condition. At the outset I suggested that, as we were to sleep in the same tent, eat together, and live together for some weeks, we should avoid all questions upon which we differed. I said, "I have the only interpreter. As there are Indians who have been baptized by Father Pierre, I will have my interpreter bring them to Bishop Grace for counsel. There are a few scattered Indians who were baptized by the Rev. Frederick Ayer, and they shall be brought

Library of Congress

to Dr. Williamson for instruction. As Christian men, we shall certainly ask a blessing before meals, and I propose that Bishop Grace shall ask God's blessing at breakfast, and Dr. Williamson at dinner, and I at supper." We were together three weeks; we encountered many hardships, and one night nearly perished from cold; but the 584 Christian courtesy and gentleness of my companions is a pleasant memory.

I mentioned this incident at a breakfast given me in London don by Sir Henry Holland, at which Lord Houghton, Ranke, the historian, Lord Salisbury, and George Lewes were present. They exclaimed, "Do you say that you were together three weeks without a ripple of discord? Minnesota must be the beginning of the millennium. It could not have happened on English soil."

In my first visits to the Indian country I found a few of the voyageurs and employees of the Northwest Fur Company. They were devoted to the Indians, and at all times gave me their hearty sympathy. Allan Morrison and Mr. Fairbanks of Crow Wing, Philander Prescott, Alexander Faribault, Borup, Oakes, N. W. Kittson, Alexis Bailly, Mr. Shubway of Red Lake, and others of this class of early traders, were men of integrity and generous of their substance. Before the Indians came into the treaty relations with the Government, the relation between the trader and Indian was one of mutual good will.

One of the most remarkable men of the State was Joseph R. Brown, known to the older members of the Historical Society. He possessed great executive ability, and a rare knowledge of Indian character. The gains which he received from Indian contracts he expended with lavish hand for his retainers among the Indians.

Another who had a deep love for the Indians was George Bonga, an interesting mixed-blood negro, living at Leech Lake, who was my voyageur and interpreter.

Library of Congress

I think that I may say without question that the state has been fortunate in the character of its newspaper press. although sometimes, in the heat of partisanship, unjust to opponents, yet for the most part taking a firm stand for education, morality, and religion.

As I Was the only citizen of Minnesota who could not move out of the state (for a diocesan bishop of our church must die in his see), I have always taken a keen interest in all political questions which affected its welfare. Our first representative in Congress, H. H. Sibley, delegate for the Territory of Minnesota, of whom my friend Robert C. Winthrop said, "He is one of the noblest and purest members of Congress," is but one 585 of the many representatives of incorruptible integrity, who were devoted to the interests of the commonwealth.

It is difficult to realize the marvelous changes which have taken place in the material developments of the state within my memory. Duluth, which at the time of my first visit had but five families, is now one of the greatest grain markets in the world. I remember the first shipment of wheat from Minnesota. Wonderful strides have been made in all lines of manufacture, mining, and commercial life.

When I came to Minnesota our trade with the Northwest British possessions was carried on by Red River carts. rude structures without a particle of iron, the parts held together by pegs and withes and drawn by a single ox in thills. As the cart wheels were never oiled, their screeching could be heard miles before the caravan came in sight. They were laden with furs, and returned with merchandise.

Our intercourse with the outside world was, in the summer, by the Mississippi steamers, commanded by Captain Orren Smith, Russell Blakeley, and Commodore Davidson. Many here present will remember with delight the days spent on the beautiful Mississippi before its navigation was interrupted by sandbars. In the winter, the journeys to Dubuque were made in Walker's rude stages, before the day of the luxurious coaches of Burbank and Company.

Library of Congress

The inns on the frontier were of the rudest character, and well deserved the name which one bore, "Hyperborean Hotel." Every summer I travelled on foot hundreds of miles in our northern forests, visiting the scattered bands of Indians.

I have never looked upon scenery more beautiful than that surrounding the lakes of northern Minnesota. Every variety of tree was to be seen, while the earth was spread with a brilliant carpet of wild flowers of every hue. The lakes and rivers were filled with fish, and game was found in great abundance. I have seen buffalo west of Yellow Medicine, elk on the prairies south of Sauk Center, and moose, bear, and foxes in our northern forests. If the National Park, which would include some of our most beautiful lakes, is established and properly cared for, it will be a rich inheritance for future generations.

I have alluded to the rude homes of the frontier population, forty years ago, a majority of whom were of foreign birth.

586

There are no foreigners in the brotherhood of the nation. In no one direction has the state made more wonderful advances than in its agricultural population. Our State University and primary schools have proved an inestimable blessing. These country homes are surrounded by comforts, and no state in the Union has a more intelligent rural population, keenly alive to the state's interests. It is a fact full of promise, for this new blood from the country homes reinforces the life of the cities, and adds to the civil welfare. Nothing in our history, to my mind, gives greater hope for the future; for the strength and safety of the nation is in its Christian homes. In the past they have always been the best resource of the nation in the hours of her trials.

When I think of our beautiful halls of education, our thronged university, our hospitals and homes of mercy, our churches with heavenward-pointing spires, our teeming warehouses, our busy manufactories, our world-famed flour mills with their vast exportations, and that tremendous tide of living souls that comes to us year by year from other shores to become

incorporated into our citizenship and to form the new race which God is raising up here to be in the forefront of great achievement. I can only say with a grateful heart: "What nation is there so great who hath God so nigh unto them as the Lord our God in all things that we call upon Him for?"

In conclusion, to speak last of the missionary work for the Christianization of the Indians of this state and of all the country westward, there are those present, members of your society, and representatives of the press, who have always given me their sympathy in my efforts for these brown children of our Heavenly Father. And I am sure that they will rejoice with me that there are now over twenty-five thousand Indian communicants of Christian churches; over twenty-two thousand Indian children in schools; and thirty-eight thousand who speak English. As a people, they are fast learning the civilization which will make them our fellow-citizens.

587

PROGRESS OF MINNESOTA DURING THE HALF CENTURY. BY HON. CHARLES E. FLANDRAU

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have been chosen to present to you, on this unusually interesting occasion, a subject which, if treated in the usual way, would be a dismal array of heavy statistics. Whether the selection was made with reference to my peculiar talent for dullness, I am unable to say; but, fortunately for you, I am limited to half an hour, in which to tell you all about the growth of Minnesota in the last fifty years. Think of it! I am expected to compress that vast subject into the space of thirty minutes. It looks to me a good deal like holding up a man and saying to him, "Write me the history of the world while I wait."

If I desired to let you down easily and shield you from dreary figures and calculations, I could say, go out into the State anywhere and look about you and whatever you see, or hear of, which represents the handiwork of man, may be taken as part of the growth of

Library of Congress

the state in the last half century. Fifty years ago it was almost in the exact condition in Which it was left by its generous and bountiful Creator, and now it is one of the great and prosperous states of the American Union. Great cities have arisen where, at the beginning of the period, were empty and nameless spaces, only inhabited by the primitive savage. Distances have been annihilated; localities that were then thirty days apart are now within, reach in a few hours' journey. The luxurious Pullman car has superseded the Red River cart and the Indian pony; the frontier camp has given way to the comfortably appointed hotel. The varicolored dress of the picturesque half-savage voyageur has yielded to the somber costume of the civilized citizen. The farmer has usurped the place of the hunter; the old frontier guide, whose unerring instinct would pilot you safely across the continent, is now lost in the bewildering intricacies of artificial civilization; and the original proprietor of the land is a miserable prisoner, corralled, dismounted, and disarmed.

It is not for me to decide upon the justice of all these vital changes. It is accepted by the nations in the progress of the world. The stronger despoils the weaker, on the plea of the necessities of the advance of civilization, to which has recently been added the elusive generality of manifest destiny. The Boer must yield to the Briton, the Spaniard and Filipino to the American; and no doubt, should the autocratic Russian outstrip them all in the race for power, which is by no means impossible, and, according to the recognized authorities, quite probable, they may all have to succumb to his brutal dictation under the very adaptable name of benevolent assimilation. To what ends the selfish passions of man may ultimately lead, and to what judgment his unrighteous deeds may subject him, the Great Spirit can be the only arbiter.

There has been more justice, and less arbitrary exertion of force, in the absorption of the country of the North American Indian, than in similar cases in other lands. We have made a show of purchasing his domains; but had he declined to part with them, he would have fallen under the wheels of the juggernaut of advancing civilization, as have all the weaker nations.

Library of Congress

With these reflections, I will take up the subject that I have been asked to consider.

When what is now Minnesota came from the hands of its Creator, I can say, without exaggeration, it was about the best equipped country, of equal size, to be found in North America. It is located on the summit of the continent, where the waters flow in three directions, the Mississippi due south to the Gulf of Mexico, the Red river of the North due north to mingle with the waters of the Arctic sea, the St. Louis river east to the waters of lake Superior and thence to the St. Lawrence and the Atlantic. On its fair bosom were ten thousand beautiful lakes, great and small, filled with delicious fish. A large portion of its surface was covered with a mighty forest of pine 589 and hardwood trees, giving a home to myriads of wild animals, moose, deer, cariboo, elk, bear, wolf, and others. Its streams were the home of the beaver and the otter; and its vast prairies swarmed with the buffalo and the antelope. Sugar maple groves and wild rice fields abounded. Nothing that contributes to the well-being of man seemed wanting.

Its climate was salubrious beyond comparison with any other portion of the earth's surface. There were no indigenous diseases, and in fact no excuse for sickness or death. So thoroughly was this idea impressed upon the mind and belief of the old settler that there was a universally accepted saying, that no one had ever died in Minnesota but two men, one of whom was hanged for killing the other. I can well remember that the first natural death that I heard of, after my settlement in the Territory, caused me a greater shock than the thousands that have since occurred.

The soil was phenomenally rich and fertile. It was especially adapted to the production of the greatest of all staple grains, wheat; and it was unexcelled in the growth of all other cereals.

The first inhabitants were the Indians, and the commerce which arose from their hunting of fur animals soon attracted the white men. The first white occupants were the fur companies-and the missionaries, the first for gain, and the missionaries to introduce

Library of Congress

among the savages the teachings of Christianity. The fur trade may be said to have been the first business transacted in Minnesota. The men controlling it were of a higher type than generally appear on the border in the first instance, Henry H. Sibley, Henry M. Rice, Norman W. Kittson, William H. Forbes, and others. The business expanded to great proportions and made St. Paul one of the largest fur markets in America.

Very little was known of Minnesota outside of its fur trade, until its organization as a Territory in 1849; although the attractions presented by its pine forests had drawn within its borders a few lumbermen before that event, who were settled about the Falls of St. Anthony, and in the valley of the St. Croix. They soon increased in number, built sawmills, and in these fifty years have pushed the lumber business from a very small beginning to such immense proportions that there were cut in the last season 1,629,110,000 feet. Preparatory to the 590 census of 1880, the United States government had an estimate made of all the standing pine in the state, and called it 10,000,000,000 feet, which was far below the truth, as the amount cut annually since proves. But the encroachments made on the pine forests have been sufficient to create fear that they will soon become exhausted if measures of preservation are not speedily taken, and earnest work is being done to preserve them through government reserves and parks. This effort may succeed, but it is so complicated by private ownership that it looks improbable. Many large fortunes have been made in lumber in Minnesota.

The first Territorial Legislature convened in St. Paul, in the dining room of the old Central House, on the third day of September, 1849. The councillors numbered nine; and the members of the house, eighteen. The governor,—now the honored president of this society,—delivered a message that was admirably adapted to the situation, and was intended to attract attention to the Territory and invite immigration. It succeeded to the fullest extent, and the Territory began to grow in population rapidly.

The census that had been taken in 1849, under the organic act, gave the whole Territory, which then extended to the Missouri river and included the greater part of what is now

Library of Congress

North and South Dakota, four thousand seven hundred and eighty inhabitants, of which St. Paul had eight hundred and forty. The immigration was moderate until the year 1855, when it began to develop enormously. It came from all directions, by wagon trains from Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and other states, and by steamboats from everywhere. Its magnitude can best be understood, when I tell you that the packet company running boats on the Mississippi brought into St. Paul that year thirty thousand immigrants. These people generally sought farms, and spread themselves over the country; but no agriculture worth mentioning, except such as was necessary for home consumption, was developed until after 1857. The census of 1895, taken by the state, gives us a population of 1,574,619. The growth since will undoubtedly swell the present total to nearly 2,000,000.

The newcomers naturally located along the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, and gradually extended into the interior; but so many of them remained in the cities and engaged 591 in speculation that a financial panic ensued in 1857, which drove the idlers to work. In a very few years we had large areas of our agricultural lands in southern Minnesota under cultivation and many millions of bushels of wheat for export. This was our second step in material progress, and it continued until the lands so cultivated began to show symptoms of exhaustion, when the farmers in our southern counties partially abandoned wheat culture, and adopted butter and cheese making, with great success. About this time the wonderful possibilities of the valley plain of the Red river of the North appeared in evidence, and the principal theater of wheat-raising was transferred to that area. This change in no way diminished the culture of wheat in the state, but simply removed it from its old grounds. Last year the state produced seventy-eight million bushels.

As soon as the production of wheat began to exceed the domestic wants of the state, the water powers at St. Anthony Falls and elsewhere were utilized for its manufacture into flour; and to such an extent did the industry progress that the output at Minneapolis for the year 1898–9 was 15,164,881 barrels, and at Duluth-Superior for the same period (the only

Library of Congress

other places where records are kept) 2,637,035 barrels, while the estimate for the whole state is twenty-five million barrels.

In the years 1871 to 1874, the Hungarian process of milling our spring wheat was introduced into Minnesota, with the advantage of producing a grade of flour superior to that of the winter wheat of more southern latitudes, while at the same time it reduced the quantity of wheat necessary to make a barrel of flour, of 196 pounds, from five bushels to four bushels and seven pounds, thus increasing the value of our wheat fully twenty per cent.

One of the most remarkable features regarding the general growth of our state was connected with the first session of our legislature in 1849, and I never think of it without being impressed profoundly with the sagacity of our early settlers. Where was there ever a body of men assembled for the first time to administer to the welfare of an extreme frontier territory, that rose much above the realm of townsites, sawlogs, and peltries? But in our case we find that small collection of men comprehending the intellectual wants of future generations, and providing for them by the establishment of a historical society for the record of events yet unborn. Esthetic conceptions of this nature are usually the result of necessity, arising from neglect of the former generations to supply such records, but here we have the whole thing anticipated at the initial step in our history. This fact stamps our first legislature with a remarkable degree of wisdom, and goes a great way to account for the intelligent administration of our subsequent affairs, and for our phenomenal growth.

While dealing with the growth of our state, I must admit that the legislative department has expanded immensely in numbers. The legislature is now composed of sixty-three senators and one hundred and nineteen representatives. Does it give us laws of value equal to its progression in numbers? If I may be allowed an opinion, I would say, no. If I should be asked whether it would be improved by being diminished two-thirds, I would say, yes.

Library of Congress

About the third step in the progression of the state's growth was the dairy industry. It had a small beginning, and was in imitation of the farmers of Iowa, who had undergone the same experience in over-taxing their lands with wheat. It soon, however, assumed great proportions, and made the southern counties of the state the most prosperous region within its boundaries. There are now about seven hundred creameries, using the milk of 410,000 cows, and, in 1898, producing 63,000,000 pounds of butter, of which 50,000,000 pounds were exported. The gross receipts amounted to \$10,400,000. and the sum paid to the patrons of the creameries amounted to \$8,600,000. Minnesota butter has carried off the prizes at all the expositions where it has been exhibited.

While these various industries were growing and expanding, manufactures of almost every nature were being established throughout the state, as boots and shoes, agricultural implements, clothes, fur garments, pottery, bricks and building material of all kinds, breweries, distilleries, packing houses, and in fact almost everything pertaining to a young western state. I shall have to except distilleries from my industries, as they have ceased. Whether this result was on account of our people preferring Kentucky whisky to the domestic article, or the work of the trusts, I can't say, but I don't believe the amount consumed has to any great extent decreased. It is impossible to estimate the aggregate of these manufacturing 593 industries, as no branch of them is fully reported, but on the whole they probably exceed all others in magnitude.

Transportation, of course, kept pace with the general growth of the state; and, by reason of a wisely selected distribution of Congressional land grants in the beginning for our railroads, Minnesota has become a great center of an immense railroad system extending over the whole continent. In 1849 there were no railroads west of Chicago. Now we have connection with all existing roads, and two trans-continental roads are especially our own, the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, which will, at no distant date, encircle the earth with their locomotives and steamships. In Minnesota alone there are twenty-six

Library of Congress

distinct railroad corporations, operating six thousand and sixty-two miles of main track, with quite a substantial addition in course of construction.

Another immense source of wealth to the state is its iron ore. Mining operations commenced about the year 1884, and in that year 62,124 tons were mined on the Vermilion range in St. Louis county, north of Duluth. The production rapidly increased, and in 1898 there were mined, on the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges, the enormous amount of 5,878,908 tons of ore, and for the period since the opening of the mines in 1884, the grand total of twenty-eight and a half million tons. The most of this industry is in private hands, but the state owns a large amount of mineral lands from which it receives royalties on the ore produced by its tenants at the rate of twenty-five cents per ton of 2,240 pounds, which carries its income to the present time up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, with the promise of continual increase.

The banking facilities of the state have grown from Borup and Oakes, Truman M. Smith, Bidwell's Exchange Bank, Charles H. Parker, and A. Vance Brown, all of whom, except Borup and Oakes, went under in the panic of 1857, to one hundred and seventy-two state banks with a paid in capital of \$6,736,800, and sixty-seven national banks with a capital of \$11,220,000, besides numerous private banks, of which the authorities do not take cognizance, with an estimated capital of \$2,000,000.

The growth of the state is not to be computed solely upon the basis of its material and physical prosperity. One of the most important elements in the consideration, is its intellectual and esthetic advancement. Minnesota had a more generous endowment, in an educational point of view, than any other state in the Union. When it was organized as a Territory fifty years ago, it was granted by the United States government one eighteenth of its whole lands for school purposes. It also had a generous donation of lands for its university and agricultural college, and it has carefully and faithfully cared for these splendid gifts, until its schools have reached a plane of excellence unsurpassed in any other state. and its university takes rank with the highest educational institutions in the

Library of Congress

country. The last published catalogue of the State University gives it 2,925 pupils, and I am glad to be able to say that it has never been disgraced by any of the scandalous student demonstrations so common at other colleges.

It is unnecessary to say much about the religion or politics of the state. We don't profess to be superior to our neighbors in either of these respects. We have in great abundance nearly all known denominations of Christianity. The Catholics have deemed our growth and standing sufficient to entitle us to an archbishopric, and have given us John Ireland to fill the exalted ecclesiastical office of that jurisdiction, a priest who has no superior in the world as a statesman, a churchman, and a diplomat. The Protestants have supplied us with representatives of many varieties of creeds and forms of church government, from the stately Episcopalian, with its worldrenowned Bishop Henry B. Whipple, to the Christian Scientist, if the latter may be catalogued among Protestant religions. In this connection I am tempted to relate an anecdote of a Frenchman, who returned to his country from a tour of America, and was asked what he thought of the Americans. His reply was, "They are a most extraordinary people; they have invented three hundred religions, and only one sauce."

While on the point of intellectual growth, I must mention the progress made in the publication of newspapers, which, say what you like, have greater influence on the education of the public than any other instrumentality. In 1849, James M. Goodhue established the first newspaper in the Territory and called it the "Minnesota Pioneer," the first issue of which appeared on the 28th day of April of that year. It was a stunner, and Goodhue was the man of all men to edit it. He was energetic, enterprising, brilliant, bold and belligerent. He 595 naturally got into fights and scrapes, and died from a wound received in an encounter with a brother of Judge Cooper, growing out of an article he had published concerning the judge. It is only fair to say that his assailant died from a wound inflicted by Goodhue in the Same affair.

Library of Congress

From this beginning the growth of newspapers in the state has been marvelous. We now publish five hundred and seventy-four in the state; some daily, some weekly, and some monthly. They appear in many different languages, for immigrants from as many lands, English, French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Bohemian, and one in Icelandic, which last is published in Lyon county. Files of nearly all these papers, donated by their editors and publishers, are carefully preserved in the archives of this society, where will be found 4,250 bound newspaper Volumes, which include nearly every paper that has ever been published in the state.

It is sometimes a good method, in presenting the growth of a state or country, to make comparisons between it and other well known countries. I will take California as an illustrative instance. It had in 1849 a wonderful introduction to the country and the world by the discovery of gold within its limits, and people flocked thither in numbers unprecedented in the history of American immigration. The gold was there in fabulous amounts, and much of it was mined for many years. It has the finest harbor and seaport on the Pacific coast. It is nearly twice as large as Minnesota, having 158,360 square miles, while we have but 84,287. Its climate is delightful, and its soil is productive of almost everything that grows outside of the tropics. It has the great ocean for its commerce with the world. It was admitted into the Union eight years before Minnesota. Notwithstanding all these apparent advantages, California has been outstripped by Minnesota in population and general growth. The census of 1890 gave California 1,208,130 people, while Minnesota had at the same time 1,301,826; and no doubt the last ten years have widened the disparity. There is no other way to account for this superiority on the part of Minnesota than upon the basis that our resources are more stable and permanent in their nature, presenting attractions to the immigrant to come to us, and advantages sufficient to hold him afterward.

596

Having said all I can in the brief time allotted me to present the half century's growth of Minnesota, I cannot round out my conclusions better than by slightly paraphrasing the

Library of Congress

panegyric of Daniel Webster on Massachusetts, pronounced in the Senate of the United States, in 1830.

Mr. President, I shall enter on no encomium of Minnesota. She needs none. There she is. Behold her, and judge for yourselves. There are her history, her resources, her enterprise, her intelligence, her growth, as I have related them. Her past is at least secure; her future depends upon the fidelity of her people. I commit her to your keeping, with hope undiminished and confidence unimpaired.

Preceding Judge Flandrau's address, Mrs. Jane Huntington Yale, of St. Paul, sang "The Song of the Flag" (by De Koven), with piano accompaniment by Mr. Charles G. Titcomb. Following this address, the afternoon exercises were completed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the audience, led by Mrs. Yale.

AULD LANG SYNE.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind? Should auld
acquaintance be forgot, And days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne, We'll take a cup of kindness yet For auld
lang syne.

We two have paddled o'er the wave From morn till sun's decline; We'll have a thought of
kindness yet For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, etc.

EVENING SESSION.

Captain Russell Blakeley, the senior vice president of the society, presided in the evening session, which began shortly after eight o'clock. In taking the chair, Captain Blakeley said:

Library of Congress

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is unpleasant to me to announce that it is very doubtful whether Governor Ramsey will be here this evening. He left word That he wishes me to preside if he does not come, and we have waited now somewhat longer than was expected. It will not be my purpose to consume a moment of the time of the audience this evening, except to render my unfeigned thanks on behalf of the Historical Society for the interest that you all have manifested in attending these meetings.

An audience of about five hundred people was present in the afternoon, and fully seven hundred in the evening. The several addresses in this session were as follows.

OPENING ADDRESS. BY HON. JOHN S. PILLSBURY.

It is certainly very pleasant to meet so many pioneer settlers of this state who are members of this Historical Society, and who have always taken so much interest in the work which this institution has accomplished. The members and officers are entitled to the thanks of the people of this state, for the preservation of the records of the early events of Minnesota as a Territory and as a State. These historic records will be of great value to the future generations, who will consult this society's library for matters of importance which cannot be found elsewhere, and, which in after years will be invaluable.

598

It is said that fifty years is but a small period in the life of a state. There are several members, however, of this society here tonight, who were here before the state or even the territory was organized. The character of these early settlers, many of them members of this institution, gave shape largely to the affairs and reputation which the state now enjoys. Had it not been for the sterling character of these early pioneers, I am sure that this great commonwealth would not have reached the high standing which she now occupies among the other states of the Union.

Library of Congress

The early settlement of Minnesota was slow. It had to contend with many drawbacks, because the state was on the extreme frontier of the country and was considered almost worthless for agricultural purposes. General Hazen, while stationed at Fort Buford, in his report to the United States government, represented this country to be a portion of the great American desert, ill adapted for settlement. The geographies used in the common schools also represented this section to be a part of the great American-desert. Horace Greeley and other editors advised settlers to go to Kansas and Nebraska, saying that Minnesota was too far north. During the contest which raged at this time as to whether Kansas and Nebraska should be made free or slave states, they advised settlers to go to these territories instead of Minnesota, which was reputed to be a cold and barren country.

Consequently settlement for many years was slow; but there was a class of settlers who believed in Minnesota. Some of those men are members of this Society, and are here tonight. They were frontier settlers of Wisconsin Territory, while that included a part of what is now Minnesota, and were also residents of the Territory of Minnesota before it was organized into a state. What is more wonderful, these men have lived to see that territory developed into the states of Minnesota and North and South Dakota, with increase of population from less than five thousand in 1849 to over two millions today. What is more remarkable still, they have lived to witness the growth, in Minnesota, of two great cities of about 200,000 population each. So much cannot be said of Kansas or Nebraska, or of any other state at the end of the first fifty years from its admission to the Union, or, I should say, from the beginning of its existence as a territory.

599

General Sibley told me, before his death, that he held jurisdiction, as a Justice of the Peace, over more territory than any other living man. While a resident of Mendota, in 1838, he held jurisdiction over a portion of the present states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and North and South Dakota.

Library of Congress

In 1854 there were only five or six school districts in our territory, and not more than a half dozen log schoolhouses, of very little value, with no organized public school system. Then we had no public school fund. Today there are upwards of seven thousand school districts, with over ten thousand school teachers, to whom we pay more than \$3,500,000 in salaries annually. Our school buildings at this day are valued at more than fifteen million dollars. Our public schools have an enrollment of more than four hundred thousand pupils; and our school system is among the very best in the country, with a permanent school fund which now reaches the magnificent sum of thirteen million dollars. We have in addition a State University at the head of our public school system, ranking second only among the state universities in the country, with an enrollment at the present time of upwards of thirty-two hundred students.

Today Minnesota is one of the best agricultural and stockraising states in the Union. It produces more and better wheat than any other state; and, what is more remarkable, it manufactures more flour than is manufactured in any other state or province on the globe, the product for the year ending September 1st, 1899, being twenty-five million barrels, of which fifteen million were made in Minneapolis. These facts give the state a wide reputation throughout the world; and this all has been attained within the memory of those here tonight. All this we have from a country which was pronounced by eastern editors worthless for settlers.

The development of our resources has been rapid, not only in the production of wheat and the manufacturing of flour, but in our mineral products. In 1884 we produced 62,124 tons of iron ore. We shall supply the markets this year with more than 12,000,000 tons of the very best of iron ore. To show how rapidly the iron industry has developed, I have only to relate an instance of what I witnessed a few years since at West Superior, in Wisconsin, adjoining our city of Duluth. Two whaleback steamers were to be launched, and a large number of our 600 citizens were to witness the launching of these great steamers. A special train of cars took us to West Superior, a place which but a few years

Library of Congress

before was the roving ground for the Indians. We found there fine public buildings, elegant schoolhouses, nice churches, paved streets, good hotels, and some 10,000 enterprising people. A large rolling-mill had been erected and was manufacturing 125 tons of steel daily, used for the plating of these large whaleback vessels. To our great astonishment, we were informed that the ore from which the steel was manufactured was lying in its native soil, in the part of Minnesota north of lake Superior, some six months before.

Not until 1864 did we have a mile of railroad within the limits of this state; today we have thirteen trunk lines of railroad reaching St. Paul and Minneapolis, over which two hundred and fifty-five trains of cars arrive and depart every twenty-four hours. A person can now take a seat in the cars on the Atlantic coast and cross the continent by the way of Minnesota to the Pacific coast with but one change of cars, and with but two changes can reach China or Japan.

Consider also the growth of the mail service. in 1850 the government asked for proposals to carry the mails leaving St. Paul once a week, on Sunday, to reach Prairie du Chien, 270 miles distant, the Sunday following, and to come back by the next Sunday. The notice contained the significant statement, that "more frequent supply will be considered." Compare that service with the service of today and how wonderful is the change!

The number of vessels that passed through the Sault Ste. Marie canal in 1855 was less than 100, with a tonnage of 106,296, the valuation of which was less than one million dollars. The number of vessels that passed through the canal in 1898 was 17,761, with a tonnage of 21,234,661, of the value of \$233,069,739. The volume of business through the Sault Ste. Marie canal in 1899 will be four times that of the business through the Suez canal.

Minnesota as a producer of wealth during the half century past has forged ahead so rapidly that today she outranks those states which came into the Union about the time she was admitted. Her valuation of property did not exceed fifteen millions in 1850; today her

Library of Congress

valuation is upwards of \$600,000,000, and as a wealth-producing state she ranks well up with the 601 leading states in the Union. For the proof of this statement, I shall only have to cite the fact that the annual value of our wheat product is nearly as great as one-half of all the gold annually mined in the United States.

Our state has been highly honored by the appointment of two of her distinguished citizens to cabinet positions under the presidents of the United States. Under President Hayes our distinguished citizen and president of this society, Governor Ramsey, served as Secretary of War. Senator Windom served as Secretary of the Treasury, with signal success, in President Garfield's cabinet, and also in the cabinet of President Harrison. In one of the greatest international complications of this half century, Minnesota is again honored by the President of the United States in the appointment of our distinguished senator, C. K. Davis, as one of a commission to adjust our difficulties with Spain and to effect a treaty with that government.

The people of Minnesota, when taking a retrospective view of the past half century, have great reason to be thankful for the progress that has been made in every direction during that period; thankful that our State has always been ready to render loyal service to the general government in defense of our common country; thankful, also, that our people are living under the laws of the most liberal and beneficent government ever devised, and at the same time sufficiently powerful to guarantee to the most humble citizen ample protection of life, liberty, and the possession of property.

It has been truly said that, next to the love for one's home, is the love for one's state and country. We who have lived in the state of Minnesota have rejoiced to see the development of the resources of our state, and her growth in everything relating to the interests of her people. We have watched the pioneer fell the tree, plough the furrow, and build the schoolhouse and the church. In all this, through seasons of prosperity and seasons of adversity and discouragement, our attachment to our state and our pride in our state have never failed. The state of Minnesota has steadily advanced in prosperity;

Library of Congress

she is rich in the bounties which nature has bestowed upon her, rich in lakes, in forests, in mines, and in her broad prairies. Progress and hopefulness in the development of her many resources are on every side; everywhere order, thrift, and contentment prevail.

EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN MINNESOTA DURING THE PAST FIFTY YEARS. BY CYRUS NORTHROP, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

The great work of the present generation is to prepare the coming generation to take our places. The progress of civilization is assured when it is certain that the men and the women of the future will be in all respects superior to their predecessors. The reliance of the present age for the accomplishment of this work is largely on schools and colleges. It is therefore an interesting task to look back on the educational situation fifty years ago and to compare it with the situation now.

THE COMMON SCHOOLS.

Fifty years ago the chief institutions of education were the common school, the academy, and the college. The common school was not free to all without payment of school rates. The studies pursued in the common schools were reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar. Webster's spelling book was an essential work. First the alphabet must be learned, letter by letter, a process long and laborious for some scholars, and very trying to the teacher. Then came "a b, ab," then "cat" and "dog," and after a while a notable advance was made to "baker;" and from that to the triumphant spelling in class of "incomprehensibility" was a long educational journey. It did not matter very much when there was so little to be learned beyond. But the process did make better spellers than the average of college students today.

Now the little child first learns to read, and afterward learns his letters. In two months he can learn to read with a 603 knowledge of the sound of the letters, without any knowledge

Library of Congress

of their names. Now he is to a large extent put into graded schools, and each grade has its own specific work in preparation for the next.

The old common school (and for that matter the common school of today is like it) was not graded. It had one teacher for all work, from the alphabet up to grammar,—in summer, a more or less intelligent young lady who wanted to earn a little money before getting married, and in winter a man who had been working on a farm or at something else during the summer, and who, having no regular employment in winter, was glad to find occupation in teaching. I do not mean to say that these were poor teachers—they were not such always, but they were not trained teachers. By the light of their experience they did as well as they could with the knowledge they had, sometimes succeeding and sometimes not. Very few of their scholars expected to go to the academy or the college. Their work therefore was circumscribed within definite limits, and only the brightest of the scholars ever advanced so far as to be masters of grammar and arithmetic. Practically, then, the common education of fifty years ago included little more than reading, writing, spelling, geography, and the simpler parts of arithmetic.

ACADEMIES.

But there were academies for students desiring to go further in their learning than the common school could carry them. These were sometimes endowed institutions, like Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., another Phillips Academy at Exeter, N. H., and the Hopkins Grammar Schools at New Haven and at Hartford, Conn. Sometimes they were private institutions without endowment. Their aim in all cases was to fit students for college if any of their students desired to go to college, and to prepare the larger number of their pupils who would finish their education in the academy for somewhat higher and better work than they could otherwise do. The range of studies included Latin, Greek, and mathematics, as a preparation for college, and a review of grammar and arithmetic, with higher work in the same than could be found in the common schools. Sometimes book-keeping and surveying were added, if the principal happened to be able to teach

Library of Congress

these. Practically no science was taught. Possibly a little of natural philosophy and of astronomy might find a place in the curriculum of some academies; but most of them were destitute alike of laboratories, apparatus, and scientific teachers.

Many of these academies were taught by more or less broken down clergymen, who were not wanting in earnestness and fidelity, and who made a lasting impression on their pupils, but all of whose work was limited by the character of the training they themselves had received. I am bound to speak with respect and admiration both of the work done by these teachers in the academies and of the results as shown in the lives of their pupils. What they did they did thoroughly and well. Education for them was not a process of cramming, but of training. They were not trying to see how many things and how much of many subjects they could make their pupils understand and remember. On the contrary, they dealt with few studies. and they made thorough work of those according to the idea of the time. They built up character. They awakened enthusiasm. They taught boys to think, —and there resulted a more virile, independent, self-reliant class of scholars and men than are usually produced by the educational processes of the present day. They faithfully served their purpose in filling the gap between the common school and the college, and they made life to thousands who could never go to college a sweeter and nobler thing than it would have been but for their training.

COLLEGES.

The same in substance might be said of the college fifty years ago. It did good work and produced good results, but its range of studies was narrow. During the first two years it carried on exclusively Latin, Greek, and mathematics. During the last two years it gave instruction in political economy, psychology, logic, history to a very small extent, astronomy, natural philosophy, geology, and chemistry, but without any practice in laboratories. It had practically no instruction in literature, in biology, or in modern languages. Its library was accessible only at stated times, and then not for research but to draw out a book. Its curriculum of the junior and senior 605 years was enriched with

Library of Congress

mere Latin and Greek if desired. It had no sociology, no psychology except the results of introspection. It was a bare, rugged skeleton, without flesh, skin, or beauty; and the wonder is that it could contain life as it did. Such as it was, it drew to itself a few hundreds of young men, ambitious to enter what were called the learned professions, and very few others. Schools of science were few and all of them young; and business men rarely thought of the college as a preparation for their work.

Apparatus for teaching was insignificant. A student in astronomy might possibly get a chance to look at the moon through an inferior telescope; the class in chemistry could look on, while the professor performed various more or less successful experiments with his chemicals; the class in natural philosophy could see how an old air-pump, Atwood's machine, and a few other things, worked; and the class in geology could see the various kinds of stones and minerals, and handle them if so disposed. But it was all lecture and text-book work; nothing was learned by personal experiment, and by doing for one's self the things which were exhibited by the professors in their experiments. As a result, the men were rare who had any knowledge of science that was worth much. In short, most men came out of college about as it was intended that they should, not knowing much, but trained to study and fully capable of mastering other subjects in future if they got a chance.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

The Hon. W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, has said that "by common consent the teachers of the United States would choose Massachusetts as the state possessing the most interesting educational history." How numerous and important are the educational problems which Massachusetts has solved for her own good, and incidentally for the good of other states, will clearly appear from an enumeration of some of the most important, as given by Mr. Harris. "The adoption of a course of study and the fixing of the amount of instruction to be given in each branch, and the time when it is best to begin it; the relative position of the disciplinary and the information studies; the use and disuse of corporal punishment; the education of girls; written examinations;

Library of Congress

the grading of schools; the relation of principal and assistant teachers; professional instruction in normal schools; religious instruction; unsectarian moral instruction, and secular instruction; the separation of church and state; government by centralized power, and then by distribution of power to districts, realizing the extreme of local self government, and then the recovery of central authority; public high schools, and private academies; coeducation and separate education of the sexes; educational support by tuition fees, rate bills, general taxation and local taxation; general and local supervision by committees and by experts; educational associations and teachers' institutes; large and small school buildings and their division into rooms, their heating, ventilation, and lighting; evening schools, kindergartens, industrial art instruction, free text books,—all these problems have been agitated in Massachusetts.”

Many of these problems had been solved fifty years ago, but some of the most important did not find a solution till some time within the last half century. How persistent the conservative element has been in resisting changes may be seen in “the long battle against the district system, lasting over fifty years,” with six victories won alternately by the opposing factions, until at last the opponents of the district system won a final victory in 1882 and the district system was abolished, only forty-five towns out of three hundred and fifty having retained it up to that time. From the experience of Massachusetts the other New England states and many western states largely settled by New England people learned wisdom, and were able to settle their educational policy wisely without passing through the contention and experiments by which Massachusetts had felt out her course.

Fifty years ago the district school was still in its glory in a large part of New England. “Each school district,” as a writer has said, “became a center of semi-political activity. Here was exhibited, in all its force, what Guizot so aptly terms ‘the energy of local liberty.’ The violence of ebullition is inversely as the size of the pot. Questions involving the fate of nations have been decided with less expenditure of time, less stirring of 607 passions, less vociferation of declamation and denunciation, than the location of a fifteen by twenty district schoolhouse. I have known such a question to call for ten district meetings,

Library of Congress

scattered over two years, bringing down from mountain farms three miles away men who had no children to be schooled, and who had not taken the trouble to vote in a presidential election during the period."

These were not the only contests. The district committee was an important matter. This committee could usually hire the teacher, and either because some family was angry at the teacher, or because some other family had a relative whom they desired for teacher, there was constant and sometimes acrimonious contention over the election of the school committee.

But on one point there was entire harmony. This I know both by my own observation and the testimony of others. This point was as to what was essential for the site of a schoolhouse. "The land must be valueless, or as nearly so as possible, for frugality was ever a New England virtue. A barren ledge by the roadside, a gravelly knoll, the steeply sloping side of a bosky ravine, the apex of the angle of intersecting roads, such as these were choice spots." The schoolhouse where I first went to school, in Connecticut, stood in such an angle where four roads converged or diverged, the inclosed space being in the highest degree rocky; and the schoolhouse stands there today, the building somewhat better than its predecessor,. but the environment substantially as it was, the site of the schoolhouse not having cost the district a penny for a hundred and fifty years.

Of the rude equipment of the schoolhouse, the absence of desks and chairs, the absence of every thing conducive to comfort except the chance to learn such elementary subjects as the untrained teacher was able to teach, I need not speak. It is a wonder that so much was accomplished, where so little was expended to make learning either attractive or possible.

Time will not permit me to speak at length of the teachers of the district schools, whether men or women, whether ugly or sweet, whether experienced or fresh. I have already indicated the range of study in these schools. It is customary, I believe, to regard these

Library of Congress

district schools as mighty factors in 608 the production of a noble generation of clear-thinking and intelligent men. Undoubtedly there were many such men fifty years ago, and undoubtedly the district school had something to do with making them what they were. That is, the district school started them towards their career. As some one has said: "The power and majesty with which the Mississippi sweeps by New Orleans to the Gulf were not brought by it out of lake Itasca. But let us give the lake credit for what it did do,—it set the rill a flowing. So did the district school. It gave the key to the world's literature. What that key was worth, depended on the use made of it."

If there had been nothing more invigorating fifty years ago than the district school, the children could not have known much, for little was taught; and they could not have had very lofty ideals, for none were to be found in the district schools. As the intellectual life of a majority of the people was bounded by these schools, the vigor of the age must have been small indeed but for forces outside, forces to which I can only allude,—the pulpit, religion, religious thought, argument on high themes of state and of future destiny, being a few of the most potent.

Happily for the boy with a bright mind, a taste for knowledge, and an ambition to be and to do something more than his sluggish school-mates, there opened that gate to all possibilities, the old-fashioned country academy. There he could begin studies that would lead to the college, studies of which the district school never dreamed. And these New England academies, narrow in their scope, compared with our high schools, but intense and thorough, transformed tens of thousands of men who could not go to college into able and influential public men, and gave a breadth to culture in the community that the colleges alone could never have produced.

Dummer Academy, the first of the noble company, founded in 1761, educated under its first master fifteen members of Congress, two chief justices of the Supreme Court, one president of Harvard College, and four college professors. The record of Leicester,

Library of Congress

Munson, Williston, Andover, and a multitude of other schools of the same type, would show results quite as interesting and creditable.

609

Of course, every boy who went to an academy had to pay tuition. There was no free education of so high a type as that furnished by the academy. Of course, also, as a consequence it was only the sons of the wealthier class, at least it was very rarely the sons of the very poor, who went to the academy.

If that state of things had continued to the present time, the sharply defined distinction of classes at the present day would be very much more evident than it is. For nothing has done so much to rub out the lines of separation among our people as free public education from primary school to university.

This magnificent system of public education, free to all, is wholly the development of the last half century; and nowhere does it exist in nobler form or with more beneficent influence than here in the Northwest. By a well arranged order of schools of different grades, the children of the state are enabled to advance from the lowest to the highest grade without interruption and without hindrance because of charges for tuition. The high schools, coming into existence about thirty years ago, and multiplying everywhere until they cover the country far better than the academies ever covered even New England, not only furnish to all their students an education quite equal to that of the colleges not so very many years ago, but they fit them in an admirable manner for the larger work of the modern university.

NORMAL SCHOOLS.

It is only sixty years since the first normal school was established in this country for the systematic training of teachers. Up to that time teaching had not been regarded as an art for acquiring which special training was needed. Knowledge was imparted in various ways according to the taste and temperament of the teacher. Such things as method and

Library of Congress

science to be used in ordinary teaching were unknown. While the object of teaching was to enlighten, fructify, and stimulate the mind of the pupil, no one thought of making the mind of the pupil a study in order to know how best to affect it.

Systematically trained teachers would have been an incalculable blessing in the olden time, when the things to be taught and the pupils to be instructed were alike comparatively few. In the present age, with the multitude of subjects, and with 39 610 pupils as the sand upon the seashore in numbers, such trained teachers are indispensable. Normal schools have multiplied in the last thirty years; and trained teachers, of whom fifty years ago there were but a few hundred, are now to be found by the tens of thousand's. Those of them who have a knowledge of the subjects to be taught, as well as of the right methods of teaching, are doing a work which fully justifies all that has been done for normal schools.

INSTRUCTION IN SCIENCES.

Perhaps in no more striking way can I illustrate the progress in education, particularly in the teaching of sciences, than by a comparison of the apparatus and methods in use in some particular sciences fifty years ago and now. I select for this purpose Natural Philosophy, a science well developed a half century ago, and Botany, a science of later development. I have asked the professors in charge of these subjects in the University of Minnesota to prepare statements, and' what immediately follows is their report upon their respective departments.

PHYSICS.

Professor Frederick S. Jones, of the Chair of Physics, says:

The science of modern Physics may be said to have grown from infancy to maturity during the first sixty years of the present century. During this period more important discoveries in physical science were made than in any other equal period of its history, and they justified

Library of Congress

the differentiation of the old science of Natural Philosophy into its constituent parts, of which Physics is one of the most important.

Without attempting to give a detailed account of all that was accomplished it will be of interest to note some of the most remarkable points. In 1800, Volta closed his acrimonious debate with Galvani, and gave to the world the electric battery. This marks a turning point in the history of electrical science. Davy immediately proceeded to obtain sodium, potassium, and many other metals, by electrical methods; he discovered the voltaic arc, and the electric light was the result. Oersted announced the action of electric currents on magnets; Ohm and Ampère formulated and proved the laws which form the basis of the mathematical theory of electricity; Young and Fresnel established the undulatory theory of light; Carnot, Helmholtz, Joule, and Mayer, gave exact form to the laws of the conservation of energy and the principles of thermodynamics; Kirchhoff invented the spectroscope and analyzed the sun's light; and Faraday, the scientific Nestor of them all, discovered electrical induction and made possible the modern applications of the dynamo, the motor, the telephone, and the electric light. All this accumulation of knowledge had to be formulated, put into tangible and teachable form, and given to the student of science; and it necessitated a radical change in methods of instruction, and an enormous increase in apparatus, books, and accessories. It made the modern physical laboratory a necessity in every educational institution.

Fifty years ago the ordinary lecture on Natural Philosophy was almost entirely devoid of practical illustration and therefore apt to be unintelligible. Great scientific truths had to be taken on faith, for the student had no chance to verify by personal experiment. A meager supply of the most primitive instruments constituted the "cabinet" of the ordinary academy or college. Some idea of the utter poverty of American colleges in instrumental appliances may be had from the report of the President of Harvard College, made in 1865, in which he said: "A new hall should be erected, suitable for the accommodating of the Hollis Professor of Natural Philosophy and the Rumford Professor of Applied Science. At the same time there is urgent need that both these professorships have additional endowments, neither

Library of Congress

having any income whatever for the supply of illustrative apparatus or machinery. The professors have even been compelled to borrow articles from the factories and shops and return them at the close of the lecture; and five courses have been given without any illustrative apparatus whatever. The special departments of Literature, the Greek and Latin classics, English belles lettres, and pure mathematics, have moderate endowments; but the modern physical sciences exist in vain for the Harvard student or professor, unless he chance to have private means of large amount."

At that time the Lawrence Scientific School offered no instruction whatever in Physics; although it did give its students the privilege of attending these experimental lectures. A physical laboratory was unknown at Harvard for the next ten years, and at Yale for the next twenty years. But such conditions could not long exist. The subject to be taught was too rich and complex, and its application to the needs of civilized life too important; the physical laboratory and the properly equipped lecture-room became necessities in every college, and even in the high schools and academies.

During the past twenty years the erection of appropriate buildings for physical investigation has gone steadily on, and elaborate instrumental equipments have replaced the old philosophical cabinets. One of the most recent creations, the McGill laboratory, built and equipped at a cost of \$350,000, represents more than the entire value of philosophical apparatus in all the American colleges of fifty years ago. The total valuation of scientific apparatus in American colleges now exceeds \$16,000,000, and is constantly increasing. Faraday's experiments. were not repeated to any extent in teaching physics even twenty years after their publication; but Roentgen's famous X-ray work in 1896 was reproduced before every college audience in the country within two months of the date of its announcement, the tendency of modern laboratories being to keep their equipment fully abreast of scientific discovery.

Such has been the progress in the science of physics during the past half century. The instrumental and library facilities of the early fifties bear about the same relation to those

Library of Congress

of the present time, as did Galvani's twitching frog to the exquisite electrical mechanism of modern times. The causes for the advance are, first, the general improvement in teaching all branches of knowledge; second, the impetus given by practical applications of electricity; and, third, the achievements of the preceding half century, which required experimental illustration and elucidation.

BOTANY.

Professor Conway MacMillan, of the Chair of Botany, says:

The science of Botany is of modern development. Fifty years ago it did not exist; nor was it possible for it to be born until the epochmarking discovery of a primal living substance common to plants and animals. Up to that time plants were of interest almost solely for their various medicinal or other economic relations. Suddenly they were discovered to be relatives of man and became interesting for their own sake. The studies of Hoffmeister and Darwin, looking toward a unification of plant and animal development, served to strengthen the position that plants had acquired upon the discovery of protoplasm.

From that time, about fifty years ago, it became a matter of altogether secondary importance to decide what specific names should be applied to plants. The botany of Tournefort, Linnsaeus, Bentham, and Gray, concerning itself principally with petal-counting, with systematic arrangement, with species description, and with bibliographic research into questions of nomenclature, was recognized to be a merely mechanical process, useful in botanical institutions just as a card catalogue is useful in a library, but having little or no relation to a real scientific inquiry into plant-life. As a matter of fact, the identification of species, the collection of herbaria, and the revision of nomenclature, which were to Linnaeus almost the whole of botany, are not now considered by the best informed to be botanical science at all. Yet so persistent are the notions of the past that even today in many institutions herbalism still passes for botany. Hence it is common to hear that Linnaeus was the father of botany. This is not true. Linnaeus was the father of

Library of Congress

plant nomenclature; but Von Mohl and Hoffmeister, Knight and Senebier, were the fathers of botany.

Modern botany, in its pure form, bases itself upon the dictum, “ *Plants are alive; they are worthy of study*”; and, in its economic form, takes its stand upon the proposition, “ *Plants are human food-supply, the human shelter, and the human environment; they should be understood and fully utilized.*” As a preliminary to all this, they may properly enough be named and classified, and even preserved in herbaria and museums as objects of interest. But taxonomy, as the old botany is now termed, has after all only a subsidiary interest.

The divisions of pure botanical science are these: the study of structure, or morphology; the study of function, or physiology; the study of development, or embryology; the study of environmental relations, or ecology; the study of positions on the earth's crust, or distribution.

Of economic botany some principal divisions are horticulture, agriculture, pharmacognosy, forestry, arboriculture, fiber culture, landscape gardening, bacteriology, plant pathology, and plant breeding.

There are, moreover, many special fields that lend themselves to ready definition: thus algology is the science of algae; mycology, the science of fungi; bryology, the science of mosses; pteridology, the science of ferns; cytology, the science of the cell; anatomy, the science of tissues; plant paleontology, the science of past vegetation; seminology, the science of seeds; and a hundred other “ologies,” limited in their relation to the general subject, but fast becoming unlimited in their literature, their technique, their application, and their contents.

So broad is the field of modern botany that a student may work throughout his college course, through his years of graduate study to his doctorate, and during all his life as

Library of Congress

a professional investigator and teacher, without ever needing to refer to the works of Linnseus, and without ever “analyzing a flower or collecting a herbarium specimen.”

Under the modern conditions the maintenance of a botanical institute becomes a complex matter. There must be museums, herbaria, libraries, publications, expeditions, gardens, lectures, laboratory exercises, seminars, and journal clubs. The machinery of the chemist and the physicist, of the engineer, the architect, the artist, and the electrician, may be drawn upon. Thousands of chemical reagents must be kept in stock. Hundreds of machines and utensils, such as microscopes, clinostats, thermostats, recording apparatus, microtomes, thermometers, barometers, spectrosopes, ovens, paraffine baths, freezing chambers, incubators, air pumps, filter pumps, auxanometers, dynamometers, projection apparatus, photographic appliances, card catalogues, bibliographic conveniences, dialyzers, glassware, and tubing, must be constantly on hand. A systematic collection of paraphernalia is absolutely necessary before the plant can be questioned and its secrets of structure, of function, and development, can be unveiled.

The director of a botanical institution must keep everything swinging in union to accomplish his best work. Illustrative material for dissection, for comparison, for experiment, and for demonstration, must be accessible at the “psychological moment” in his lecture or in his laboratory instruction. The periodical literature in his specialty, numbering now some hundreds of regular journals, must be at hand.

614

It is the function of the modern botanical institute not to analyze flowers, not to stimulate a *dilettante* interest in the field and meadows, not to accumulate innumerable desiccated curios of plant life, not to affix Latin names to defenceless vegetation; but to be ready to push forward the scientific investigation of those microcosms, the plants, and to help others to probe nearer the secret of their existence. All this looks toward the advancement of human knowledge and the uplifting and broadening of human life.

Library of Congress

After having been begun as an amusement, continued as a purveyor of drugs to the medical profession, developed for a time as a systematic classification of natural objects, Botany fifty years ago took its place as a branch of the science of life. In its field are being solved some of the questions of deepest moment to the human race. In the modern study of plants lies the hope of the future, as to the advancement of agricultural methods, the limitation of disease, the lengthening and the comprehension of life. Botany is not merely a division of the natural sciences; it is one phase of the world problem.

SUMMARY AND STATISTICS OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS.

Time will not permit me to enter into further details. The progress of the last fifty years may be briefly summarized. Its most striking features have been: 1. The establishment of grades in schools, and special provision for the youngest children in kindergartens; 2. The establishment of training schools for teachers; 3. The establishment of scientific and technical schools; 4. A wonderful increase in appliances and aids, as libraries, laboratories, and apparatus; 5. Great endowments of colleges and schools, by the national government, state governments, and individuals; 6. Increased attention to literature in the study of language; 7. A marvelous extension of all kinds of scientific study, including agriculture, the most important of all; and 8. The establishment of graduate courses, enabling students to carry their studies much further than formerly.

Fifty years ago every college in the country was poor; and no college had an equipment, excepting its library, equal to that of the best high schools today. Now, the annual income of Harvard University is more than one and a half millions of dollars. Its productive funds exceed nine millions of dollars. Its library has 545,000 volumes. Yale has 285,000 volumes; and the University of Minnesota has 60,000 volumes. I need not mention in detail the great gifts which have founded and built up Johns Hopkins, Chicago, and Leland Stanford Universities, gifts amounting to \$25,000,000. The University of California

Library of Congress

has recently received from a lady a gift of six millions of dollars for buildings, twenty-five thousand dollars being given just for architectural plans.

Fifty years ago, Connecticut had a school fund of \$2,000,000, and it was deemed magnificent. Today such a fund is small in comparison with the larger funds of many states, our own state already having a fund more than five times as large and likely to become ten times as large.

There are today in the United States 472 Universities and Colleges of Liberal Arts, at which more than 150,000 students are in attendance. The total annual income of these institutions is nineteen millions of dollars. The bound! volumes in their libraries number 6,700,000. The value of their scientific apparatus is more than \$16,000,000. The value of their grounds, buildings, and productive funds, is \$240,000,000. And the benefactions they receive, while varying from year to year, amount to several millions yearly. The United States, in its magnificent proportions of today, is not grander, in comparison with the infant republic of 1776, than are the educational forces of the country today as compared with those of fifty years ago.

DONATIONS THIS YEAR FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION.

In conclusion, I may say that the donations to educational institutions of the United States have not been as large in any previous year as in 1899. Already there have been received by these institutions, during the present year, nearly \$30,000,000. The wealthy people of the country are beginning to understand that it is better to be their own administrators, and to give their wealth while they are alive, rather than to bequeath it at their death; and that there is no nobler use to which they can put their money than in endowing and making powerful universities for the education of the people. How general this disposition to promote education is becoming, will appear, I think, from the following list of the principal benefactions during this year 1899. It will be noticed that in this splendid list the University of Minnesota does not appear. as the recipient of any large private benefaction.

Library of Congress

616

Mrs. Leland Stanford, to Leland Stanford University \$15,000,000

Estate of John Simmons, for the Female College, Boston 2,000,000

Henry C. Warren, to Harvard College 1,000,000

G. W. Clayton, for a university at Denver 1,000,000

P. D. Armour, to Armour Institute 750,000

Maxwell Somerville, to the University of Pennsylvania 600,000

Edward Austin, to Harvard College 500,000

Lydia Bradley, to Bradley Polytechnic Institute 500,000

Samuel Cupples, to Washington University 400,000

Jacob Schiff, to Harvard College 300,000

Marshall Field and J. D. Rockefeller, to the University of Chicago 300,000

Edward Tuck, to Dartmouth College 300,000

J. D. Rockefeller, to Brown University 200,000

Caroline L. May, to New York Teachers' College 200,000

Edwin Austin, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 200,000

R. C. Billings, to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 100,000

O. C. Marsh, to Yale College 100,000

Library of Congress

Andrew Carnegie, to the University of Pennsylvania 100,000

Unknown donor, to Wesleyan University 100,000

George R. Berry, to Baltimore Female College 100,000

J. D. Rockefeller, to Denison University 100,000

W. K. Vanderbilt, to Vanderbilt University 100,000

Unknown donor, to Princeton College 100,000

R. C. Billings, to Harvard College 100,000

Besides these, there is a multitude of smaller gifts, the total of which rises to the millions. May the liberality thus manifested toward the highest institutions of learning continue to promote education in file years to come, and thus nobly supplement the grand work of the states in their provision for public and universal education.

PROGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES DURING THE HALF CENTURY. BY HON. CUSHMAN K. DAVIS, UNITED STATES SENATOR.

The progress of the United States, during the half century now about to end, is a trite subject for discussion. I do not believe that the present generation can adequately estimate it. To us it is commonplace. The things that we ourselves have done always so appear. We become so familiar with them, so used and wonted to them by daily contact and elaboration; so versed in the small and myriad details in which any great achievement is necessarily involved, that the entire performance is, to us, like a stage play to its actors, the mere routine of daily life, however gorgeous and spectacular it may seem to the audience. It would be easy enough to treat this progress with sounding and general declamation; to say in elaborate phrase what everyone knows, and to gratify ourselves with self-praise. I am not sure that it would not be entirely proper to do so; for surely the

Library of Congress

men and women of any eventful epoch about to close have a right to look back proudly over its great results, and to say "all of this have we seen, and of it we have been a great part." But we need not fear that this will not be abundantly done on other occasions.

It has therefore seemed to me that I shall perform a very pleasant duty most usefully by indicating some of the general lines along which this progress has been made.

All National progress is valuable only so far as it benefits humanity. Any other progress is illusory, and does not deserve the name, although it has often received it. The development of the United States during the last fifty years has, in my opinion, this for its distinguishing trait, that it has benefited man more as an individual, given him more liberties, functions, 618 opportunities, comforts, enjoyments, luxuries even, than he has received in any other half century since time began. The social has been greater than the political progress, and one great excellence of this evolution will consist of the reaction of man as an individual upon political questions, which will be subjected to a higher intelligence than has ever before operated upon them.

The principal progress of humanity had, for many generations, been toward the acquirement of political rights. The struggle was to emancipate man from political restrictions of many kinds, imperial, social, and commercial. Our fathers rebelled to secure political rights. They fought for the right to govern themselves, and they secured it. That the American people, as individuals, should be raised to a higher enjoyment of personal dignity, privilege, and comfort, was not the immediate object of our fathers. Their task was the proximate one to secure that political independence which is the condition precedent to every ultimate social and personal benefit. Thus, up to about fifty years ago, political debates, speculations, and divisions, were largely of a general character, and, to a certain extent, abstract, even in their connection with the most practical questions.

But about the year 1850 a force, then recent, and which had been merely a weak and derided protest, became all at once a controlling power. It was generated by a great

Library of Congress

conception of the rights of man as an individual. This force manifested itself by an attack made by the intelligence and conscience of the Nation upon the institution of African slavery. The slave was liberated. It was a great achievement in itself, but it went far beyond its own consummation.

Pause for a moment and look back. You cannot help seeing how many vast, perilous, and intricate questions, involving asserted personal rights, have most forcibly presented themselves since 1850, and how rarely they appeared in any form before that year. These have not usually been political. They have been social, industrial, and economic agitations of popular intelligence and sentiment, which have more often enforced themselves by usage and custom than by legislation.

619

Perhaps the most universal and beneficent of these improvements in social conditions by which the individual has been benefited has been in regard to the status of woman. Her emancipation from an almost complete merger of her personality has been nearly accomplished. Fifty years ago her power in literature, art, and affairs, was small indeed. Today she owns and manages her own property; she is arrayed in nearly every rank of endeavor; she has become a function in all the concerns of life, beyond what was conceivable or dreamed of in former times. New fields of employment have been occupied by her. The doors of universities have been unbarred, and she walks, queenly and triumphant, in the cloistered halls of learning. She has ceased to be merely the satellite of man, shining with a reflected light, and, too often, eclipsed by his shadow, and has become another sphere of humanity shedding a milder and purer radiance upon all human concerns; and to her attractive power and beauty the tide of human welfare has risen to a greater height.

The last fifty years have not been an imaginative period. They have been intensely practical. More useful inventions have been made since 1850 than for two hundred years before. They have lightened labor and utilized waste substances. They have doubled

Library of Congress

time and shortened the duration of the act of production. They have thus given rest and leisure for intellectual improvement. They have cheapened products and they have not reduced wages. They have not barred any of the opportunities for employment, but have, on the contrary, created and increased them. For it is a truth that every invention which has produced a machine which can do the work of many hands has wronged no toiler, but has, on the contrary, improved his condition. The benefits have been universal. An inventory tory of the utensils of any household will disclose many devices to lighten toil, to shorten hours of work, and to produce a better result, which were unknown fifty years ago.

Education has become universal and its scope immensely greater. The school of whatever grade of that time was not the school of today. The difference is that the school now connects itself immediately with the practical life of after years, whereas it formerly did this in scarcely any degree.

620

People are better fed, better housed, and better clothed, than they were fifty years ago. The number of books in lowly houses has increased tenfold, and I think that the family life is better and closer now than it was then.

This is a self-governing people, and we look to see what effect this great progress towards individualism has had upon political affairs. It is to be noted, in the first place, that this individualism is simply the result of mental independence. Mental independence is the product of the resources of knowledge and thought. These resources have been partly the result, and partly the cause, of the personal advancement which I have indicated so imperfectly.

That this independence should assert itself in political affairs was inevitable. Accordingly, this half century has been signalized by great manifestations of free political action. Formerly political inconsistency was an unpardonable apostasy; it is now merely

Library of Congress

venial. Formerly the masses followed; now they lead. Their leading is not always wise,—but that is not the question. The fact is what we are seeking.

This independence of thought and action has been asserted and sustained by an unprecedented intellectual activity. The crowd often now debates ably, whereas formerly it merely hurraed or dogmatized.

The political contest of 1896 was upon abstract and most difficult questions of finance and economies. I say nothing here as to the merits of that most remarkable controversy, but I will say that no political subject was ever debated so thoroughly and well by the masses of the people. There was, of course, much unfounded assertion and a deal of delirious prophecy; but, allowing for all these, there was a stock of information, and a vigor of argument employed by men talking with each other, never before equalled.

This is as it should be in a nation whose people settle everything. A people so endowed as ours will settle a disputed issue wisely, and much more speedily than was done in the earlier times, when irreflection, ignorance, and passion, were too often the prey of the demagogue or the victim of the wise man gone wrong. No more potent guaranty of our power and perpetuity has been produced, in our one hundred and twenty-five 621 years of development, than this subjection of political questions to individual independent opinion.

Of course, individual independence of action upon political subjects is sometimes ruinously destructive. Free thought is always in rebellion. If resisted too obdurately by ancient and evil institutions, it crushes and wrecks, by force irresistible, the entire social fabric of which they are a part. The French Revolution was such an event. It was the product of individual thought which for fifty years protested, remonstrated, suffered, and was often crushed only to rise again, until it possessed itself of the physical force of thirty millions of people, and swept into one chaos of destruction the good and the bad of a state which had stood for nearly a thousand years. The most salutary changes, both in the social and in the material world, are gradual; and the more imperceptible in their progress, the better they are. Had

Library of Congress

France been plastic a hundred years ago, the lava of the Revolution would not have buried so many institutions under its tide of fire, and Napoleon would never have appeared as conqueror, emperor, and reformer.

It is not to be doubted that the people of the United States will assimilate, and will concentrate into unitary action, the many and diverse forces of individual thought and action. They have always done so. If we look back over our history, we see many great events and emergencies of the most dangerous character which our fathers never foresaw, which were encountered, controlled, and settled, in every instance, to the increase of our power and stability. What other nation could have suffered and triumphed as did the United States in our civil war? Unprecedented as the mere military result was, it was slight compared with the fact that, during the generation which suffered and prevailed in it, the people of the North and South speedily reunited in a great National identity of patriotism and power.

The Louisiana purchase was an event of unexampled magnitude of its kind. To many of our greatest and purest statesmen, it seemed sinister, and manifestly destructive of our institutions and polity. But with the cession from Mexico it has become the very essence of our invincible strength as a Nation.

Present conditions of a similar character, which at once create anticipations of benefit, or apprehensions of evil, that 622 have no limits in the compass of the imaginations which conceive them, will, by the wisdom of a great people whose thought, speech, and action are free, be settled and wisely adjusted to the conditions and destinies of a civilization which has moved from its European and American seats across the great oceans, and which is touching with its creative hands the dark and inert masses of Oriental and African humanity.

Considering the evolution of the last fifty years, its mass, its spirit, its momentum and direction, we are warranted in believing that our country is now, as it has been heretofore,

Library of Congress

an agency of that Providence which guides and moves nations to the realization of every aspiration of humanity for better conditions, moral, intellectual, spiritual, and physical.

Note by the Secretary .

An address on the first of the two following subjects was expected to be given by Senator Knute Nelson, and on the second, completing the series of this Anniversary Celebration, by Gen James H. Baker.

Senator Nelson, however, having recently returned from a long visit in Norway, his native land, found many and important duties requiring his attention before the opening of Congress, so that he felt obliged to decline the invitation of the Anniversary Committee. At the monthly meeting of the Historical Society, November 13th, the Committee secured the promise of Gen. John B. Sanborn to speak on the same subject that had been assigned for Senator Nelson, the address being thus without time for studied preparation.

Still later, a telegram was received from Gen. Baker, detained by business which had called him to New York City, saying that he could not be present at the Anniversary. In his place and on the subject announced for him, when only a part of one day remained, Col. William P. Clough consented to speak, that each theme in the series planned by the committee might be presented.

MINNESOTA IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS DURING THESE FIFTY YEARS. BY GEN. JOHN B. SANBORN.

Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen: It was only at the close of the Historical Society meeting, on Monday evening, that I was notified by the committee and asked to fill this place. Hence I appear before you with no preparation whatever, except what any man has who has been identified with the affairs of Minnesota for forty-five years. In the celebration of this anniversary, a day of so much importance in the history of our Society and our State, all papers should be prepared with a great deal of care, every idea being thoroughly

Library of Congress

considered and fairly expressed. It seems scarcely proper, therefore, for me to proceed with any remarks upon this subject, which had been assigned to Senator Nelson.

It can be treated of course in a great many ways, but it cannot be treated by me in any adequate manner this evening. The addresses that have already been given, and the papers that have been prepared and read, have made frequent reference to the grand achievements of the people of this State. One of the most distinguished parts of this history of fifty years consists in the patriotic and honorable public services of her senators and representatives in Congress.

Minnesota had no life, corporate or otherwise, until Congress passed the act providing for the organization of the territory, on the third day of March, 1849. The land had been a wilderness, as it then was, from the dawn of creation. Of course, Adam was the original owner of this territory, and I think (although this may differ a little from the ideas of our distinguished Bishop Whipple) that the people whom we found 624 here when this was organized as a territory had descended from Cain and not from Abel. Under the marked influence that he has brought to bear upon them, however, it would be difficult now to substantiate the idea that they were descendants of Cain.

The organization of Minnesota as a territory brought her into immediate contact with the great powers of Congress and of the United States. No such powers of government exist anywhere else on the earth, nor have they ever existed, I think, in any period of the history of the race. When we speak of the authority of Congress, that does not fully come to our mind. It comprises the power of negotiating treaties with foreign nations, of regulating commerce with foreign nations, with the several states of the Union, and the Indian tribes; the power to raise and support armies, all expressed in five words, from which at times spring armies of a million men to protect and maintain these powers and enforce them; to provide and maintain a navy, from which navies sometimes spring, under the operations of Congress, that are capable of sweeping all other navies from the seas; and then that last, grand, transcendent power, to make laws to carry into effect all the foregoing powers

Library of Congress

and all other powers vested in the government of the United States or in any department or office thereof.

When Minnesota sent her first territorial delegate to Congress, and more definitely when statehood entitled her to send senators and representatives to Congress, she became a participant in the administration of those powers. She shared in the deliberations of Congress by her successive territorial delegates; and since her admission to statehood she votes on all questions, as when war shall be declared, or peace made, and what action shall be taken in regard to commerce and all those great relations which make states and make nations. This commenced, as I stated, on the third day of March, 1849. The white inhabitants of this territory were then few. My friend Moss was here at that time, and there were three or four thousand others.

But what was done then? From the provisions that are included in that act have flowed all the great results which have been referred to by the previous speakers. Among these are 625 the thirteen million dollars of our permanent school fund, and the State University. The simple enactment by Congress that sections 16 and 36 in each township of all the public domain in the territory and future states growing out of this region should be set apart for school purposes has brought about this result. Now to whom is that due in the main, to the greatest extent? Unquestionably to the first delegate from Minnesota who was there present, giving direction to legislation for our territory at that time. General H. H. Sibley. Thence followed the marvelous educational growth which has since appeared. It was the touch of the wand of the magician to the whole territory. Hitherto it had continued as it was in the beginning. Its only inhabitants had been untutored savages. Six thousand years had passed away without making any material changes, excepting here and there a mound to mark the burial places of a departed race.

There is little that I can say in regard to the part performed by Minnesota in the administration of the powers vested in Congress, except what was said by my predecessor, Governor Pillsbury, that she has always been thoroughly true and loyal to

Library of Congress

the federal government. Minnesota has always voted for the patriotic use of every power vested in the Congress of the United States, when it has been exerted for the preservation and development of our national life, and for the upbuilding and advancement of the whole country. At the same time there has been constant watchfulness for all the interests of the Northwest and of this State. There have been fifteen United States senators from Minnesota, and about three times as many representatives, forty-three, in the House of Representatives; but in no instance has the vote of the State been adverse to the loyal and patriotic exercise of any power granted by the Constitution to Congress or to any department of the federal government.

When the civil war commenced, the Minnesota senators were Morton S. Wilkinson, a republican, and Henry M. Rice, a democrat. Both were most ardent supporters of the government. To my astonishment, I heard Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee of military affairs, say to Mr. Rice, long years after the war. "I don't know how we could ever have mobilized our armies, if you had not been on the military committee of the United States Senate;" and he went on to state that they got more information and knowledge from Mr. Rice, as to what was required to move a regiment or any organized force of the army, than from all other sources combined, and admitted that Mr. Rice had drawn all the provisions of the law for that purpose.

That was the greatest crisis through which the nation has ever passed. It was the time when all these powers which I have referred to, and which are enumerated by the Constitution, were exercised. There was scarcely a power vested in Congress, or in any department of the government, that was not exercised to the fullest extent for four years during that war. Times come in our national history when every such power has to be exercised, when no power can be neglected; and so far as Minnesota's conduct was concerned, in that great struggle for our national existence, she is entitled to the highest praise and to the congratulation of this generation.

Library of Congress

You may think it strange I have not a word to add concerning the representatives of Minnesota subsequent to the civil war, and now, in our national Senate and House of Representatives. You are, all of you, as familiar with what they have accomplished as I am myself. You know that by their standing and their efforts Minnesota has acquired a name and a reputation not only throughout this country but throughout the whole earth. It is a source of everlasting commendation and gratitude that the people have been so intelligent as to promote men so able as they have been to these exalted positions.

Looking forward, I can only express the hope that during the next fifty years this State may be as loyal, and may be as ably represented in both branches of the Congress of the United States, as it has been during the past fifty years.

THE WORK OF THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY THROUGH FIFTY YEARS IN PRESERVING MINNESOTA HISTORY, AND ITS DUTY TO THE FUTURE. BY COL. WILLIAM P. CLOUGH.

Mr. Chairman, and Ladies and Gentlemen: I am in the same position as General Sanborn. I am a substitute, called in just at the eve of battle. The Anniversary Committee desired that this last address in celebration of the completion of a half century of this Historical Society should endeavor to make the public better acquainted with what it has done for the State, and with our manifest duty that this work shall continue and widen during the future years.

The first legislature of Minnesota, which met in this town fifty years ago, in September, 1849, was only small in numbers. There were twenty-seven members, all together, nine in the Council, and eighteen in the House. But they must have been a very remarkable body of lawgivers. They sat during eight weeks and four days. They had under their jurisdiction a territory almost as large as Germany or France. At that time Minnesota extended from the St. Croix, as it does now, at its eastern boundary, to the Missouri river at its western. It was without organized government of any kind, excepting that provided by the United

Library of Congress

States in accordance with the act establishing the Territory of Minnesota. It was without provision for the transfer and holding of property and the recording of titles. And still, in the short period of less than nine weeks, that small legislature completely organized the government in the Territory. It provided for its courts, for the administration of justice, for the transfer of property, for the care of the estates 628 of deceased persons, for the education of the youth, for the necessary roads and means of communication, and it did that all in the small space of forty-three acts. Why, legislatures much larger and supposed to be composed of men of much greater experience and ability need that today merely for the purpose of rubbing off the corners of previous legislation. But that first body of Minnesota lawgivers did its great work, accomplished all its purposes, taking legislation as a blank and filling it up completely, in forty-three acts and in fifty-two days of session.

But that legislature passed one other act, to incorporate the Historical Society of Minnesota, which was placed last in the publication of the laws passed during the session. This society was a somewhat feeble institution in its infancy. Everything was on a comparatively small scale in those days. But still the legislative act provided for a complete society for the purposes that were named by it in a somewhat general way. As was told you this afternoon, the society organized upon that basis and proceeded with its work.

It received a new impulse in the year 1856, when two further acts were passed regarding this society, and defining the work which it was to perform. Before, in the act of 1849, in a brief and general way the work and purposes and scope of the society were mentioned. In the first act passed in 1856, those purposes were expressed at somewhat greater length; but the second act in that year contained the following provision, which has been really the breath of life of the society. I will trouble you with the reading of it. It is very short and it tells the story in itself.

“Section 1. There shall be annually appropriated to the Minnesota Historical Society the sum of five hundred dollars, to be expended by said society in collecting, embodying, arranging and preserving in authentic form a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts,

Library of Congress

manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary, and other materials illustrative of the history of Minnesota; to rescue from oblivion the memory of its early pioneers, to obtain and preserve narratives of their exploits, perils, and hardy adventures; to secure facts and statements relative to the history, genius, progress or decay of our Indian tribes; to exhibit faithfully the antiquities and the past and present resources of Minnesota; also to aid in the publication of such of the collections of the society as the society shall, from time to time, deem of value and interest; to aid in binding its books, pamphlets, manuscripts and papers, and in paying the necessary incidental expenses of the society.”

This act is important, not merely for the small pittance which was all that it was thought could be afforded at that time from the slender revenues of the Territory for this work, but also for its recognition of a great fact, that among the educational institutions of the Territory and afterwards of the State, the Historical Society holds a prominent place.

The appropriation, you will observe, was perpetual. It has since been continued, I think, without any interruption, and of late years it has been increased, although not nearly to the amount, as we think, which should be expended upon such work. Besides the great tasks of administration of the constantly growing library, museum, and collection of portraits, another principal duty of the society, to which it has given continual attention, is the collecting and writing of history, especially the history of the State of Minnesota.

The study of history is not merely a thing of pleasure and a pastime. It is a study that is indispensable for success in the life of the individual and of the state. It is a thing which no civilized people can leave out from education and from daily use.

Everything that we see in physical nature is the result of something that preceded it. For example, the grass that grows under our feet does so because other grass grew there last year and in the years past. The beasts that walk the earth have the same forms, instincts, and habits, as their progenitors. This is a truth, so far as the physical world is concerned, which is absolute and universal. Practically, it is also universal in what we call the moral

Library of Congress

world, that is, the world of thought, of ideas, of impulses, of purposes, and consequently of men's actions. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of a thousand of the things that every man does every day he does merely because he has previously done the same thing, or because somebody else has done the same thing before him. Is not that true? Think of it. To say that a proposition is unusual, is to condemn it. To say that a proposition is unheard of, is to give it a knock-out blow. We are all the creatures of custom, and mankind has always been so. All of our institutions are bundles of customs. The examples of the customs are called precedents, and these control the action of men and of governments everywhere.

One of the greatest and best governments on the face of the earth has no constitution underneath it, excepting an unwritten constitution of precedents. In England, the country to which I refer, they have a kingdom and a parliament today because they have had them in antiquity. These things have gone on continuously, and the institutions which exist in England or in any other country today exist because other institutions of similar character existed in times past.

Custom, habit, and precedent, control us in every action. They control us as men and as citizens, in our daily avocations, at the ballot-box, and even on the field of battle. Can anybody doubt that the brave men who marched up San Juan hill, on the first day of July last year, were moved to greater daring because of the knowledge and recollection of what their predecessors in similar positions at Chattanooga and Atlanta and Gettysburg and in the Wilderness, had done? We must make a study of these precedents. It is as necessary to study the precedents of men's actions and of social institutions as it is to study arithmetic or grammar or mineralogy.

In these days there is a tendency in every direction to a systematic division of labor. In the workshop, in transportation, in every trade, in every profession, in every industry, this has proved very advantageous, and it is so particularly in education. It is not very long ago since the common schools were content with three studies. Men were taught those

Library of Congress

things, and they went out and battled with the world, many of them successfully. More studies were taught in the higher schools and colleges, but for a long time each institution spread itself over the entire domain of knowledge. Now the college or university divides itself into numerous branches. Now we have the classical and literary school, the scientific school, the agricultural school, the law school, the medical school, the dental school, etc. A similar division of the work to be done is true also of those other great sources of instruction and knowledge, public libraries. Formerly a public library contained books of all classes. Literature, science, art, history, were all represented. Now a division of these subjects is being made. Some of the great new libraries, with large endowments, are confined entirely to science. In a short time others will be confined to literature, collecting poetry, fiction, plays, and essays. In a short time again others will be confined to art. The most important of all, because it affects the moral conduct of men, is the library of precedents, the library which informs us what man did under similar circumstances and under like conditions at periods in the past. That is the library of history. So many books have been written upon the subject of historical precedent that to include other subjects in the same public library makes it unwieldy and deprives each department of a large part of the good it might otherwise accomplish.

The fathers of the Territory of Minnesota and of the State appreciated this fact. They evidently foresaw and then provided for a great educational center in the State of Minnesota. In the first place, they foresaw, though imperfectly, the grand development of this Commonwealth, the beginning of which, for its first fifty years, we have reviewed today. Think of the possibilities of population for the future in our State. It is a fact worth mentioning, for purposes of comparison and to see where we may be in the future, that the area of the island of Great Britain, 88,226 square miles, only slightly exceeds that of the State of Minnesota, which is 84,287 square miles. Great Britain today is supporting, in comfort and luxury that have never been equalled in the world before, thirty-three millions of people. It would be no exaggeration to hope and to expect that Minnesota will have ten millions. And these ten millions must be educated, they must be trained, they must have all

Library of Congress

kinds of training that are necessary to fit them to be good citizens, useful men and women, qualified to do their duty under all circumstances and conditions to which they may be called.

The schools and the universities do their work. We have a great provision for them. This is a great educational center, 632 headed by the State University, one of the first schools of its class in the country, and destined to become more useful and influential, relatively, than it is today. We have in our neighborhood also Hamline University, Macalester College, Carleton College a short distance away. a Catholic college and a Catholic seminary, and two Scandinavian seminaries. besides numerous academies and the public high schools. What could be more fitting than to provide specially a historical library, free to all our people, and conveniently accessible to the teachers and students of all these institutions of learning? That is what the founders of the Territory and State of Minnesota provided.

It was designed that particularly the collection and preservation of the history of Minnesota should be the work of this society, and surely there never has been any greater or more honorable history than that of this community. Look at it in any aspect, in its commercial aspect, in its civil aspect, in war and in peace. Where is there a finer record than in Minnesota? It is fitting that this record should be written, and that it should be well written, thoroughly, accurately, impartially; and there is no better arrangement for collecting the materials of history, and for writing them fully and correctly, than a historical society like ours. Some states have an official historian; but no individual, however successful in research and authorship, can equal in efficiency a historical society. Such a society as this is made up of men of different religions, of different politics, and of all shades of thought. Impartiality, accuracy, the most careful investigation of all details of our state history, can be expected from a body of that kind. So it has been fitting for the State of Minnesota to entrust the record of its honorable achievements, its settlement and progress, and the illustrious careers of its public men, to a body of this character.

Library of Congress

This society has attempted to do the work which has been committed to it, this great work, thoroughly well and impartially. It has published eight volumes of its Historical Collections, comprising addresses, papers, and memoirs, on Minnesota history; and it has made a great collection of books of history, one of the most valuable historical libraries in the United States.

633

As was said this afternoon in an able paper, our society is collecting together the materials of our state history, and the best materials for use by the future historian. It is getting not merely the books of history which have been written, but it is gathering together and preserving the newspapers, which are the great source, and have been for the last century, of the materials of history. Upon this subject of the society's collection of Minnesota newspapers, I do not think too great stress can be laid. Besides, many files of newspapers from other states and countries, and some that are even far older than this society, have been acquired and are among the choicest treasures of its library; for it is recognized that the history of former times, and other countries, is indispensable for frequent consultation by readers and students here.

If anybody will take the trouble of looking over the newspaper files of this Historical Society, I am sure that he will find much to gratify and interest him. He will learn that the newspaper is not an invention of this day or of this year or even of this century. He will find that good newspapers were published more than two hundred years ago. As an example I hold in my hand now the first volume of the "London Gazette," beginning, under the name "Oxford Gazette," November 16, 1665, and that was a fine newspaper then. This society has the complete series of it, issued semi-weekly, for nearly forty-eight years, extending to July 25, 1713. Next we have the "London Chronicle," published three times a week, for the years 1757 to 1762, inclusive. Our oldest file of an American newspaper is the "Connecticut Gazette," weekly, from June 9, 1780, to August 10, 1803, covering thus the last three years of the Revolution and the following twenty years. Of the "Columbian

Library of Congress

Centinel" (at first called the "Massachusetts Centinel"), published twice a week in Boston, we have an incomplete series extending through more than forty years, from September, 1786, to the end of the year 1827. Overlapping a part of that period, and continuing into the period that has been covered by our Minnesota newspapers, is the society's file of the "New Hampshire Patriot," from 1809 to the end of 1855. Thus for two hundred and thirty-four years, beginning in 1665, this society's library possesses, in these successive series of newspapers, an almost continuous contemporary record of the chief events of history.

634

I want to say to any gentleman who has not been in the habit of reading history in the newspapers but has confined himself to published books, that he loses much aid for obtaining a thorough insight and understanding of any particular event. The best account of any event, the best picture and detailed description of it, you will find, according to my experience, in the newspapers of the period.

A good illustration of the historical value of newspapers came under my observation during a visit in the State of Rhode Island last summer. There is a great historical society in Rhode Island, one of the largest institutions there; and one of the great historical events in that state was the seizure and burning of the British vessel "Gaspee" in the year 1772. That was the first overt act of the American patriots in the Revolutionary War. It preceded the Declaration of Independence by four years, and naturally it is a great event in the history of Rhode Island, and it is constantly commemorated there in many ways and on many occasions. In the reading room of their fine Historical Society building, which is situated near the buildings of Brown University, is a large painting depicting that event. On one of the walls near by is the portrait of the man who was said to be the leader of the band of patriots who assaulted and captured the ship, and it stated the date of the event to be a particular time. It seemed to me that the date was one which I had not read of before, and I asked the attendant whether it was correct. He looked at the card on the portrait, and then went off and presently brought a silver cup that had been presented to the Historical Society on the occasion of the commemoration of the same event a

Library of Congress

few years ago, and on the silver cup was another date, entirely different from that on the portrait. I thought it very strange that right at headquarters we should find two inconsistent dates of such an event, and it had a somewhat disturbing effect upon the official of the library. He proceeded to look the question up, and said, "The secretary of this society has just prepared an important paper on this subject, and it will give us the date." So that paper was resorted to, but it stated no date at all. I then said to him, "What was the name of the newspaper published in the State of Rhode Island in the year 1772?" He replied, 635 "The Providence Gazette was published at that time, and we have the files." I said, "Very well, get that newspaper, and I warrant that you will find all about it and find it correctly stated." Accordingly he got down the files of the newspaper. and there we found an excellent report, just as you would find in the Pioneer Press tomorrow for any event occurring today in St. Paul within the observation of a reporter. It was short, but it was a much clearer and more specific account of the event than any I had ever seen. And in addition there was the proclamation of the British governor of Rhode Island, describing the same event and offering a reward for the Capture of the offenders. The newspaper report and the proclamation gave a different date from either of those given on the portrait and on the cup; and the newspaper, having been published immediately after the event, was certainly authentic.

Now I venture to say that we make a mistake, all of us who have access to the files of newspapers, if we do not go to them for the best account of any of the events in our history. Therefore I think that one of the most valuable and useful departments of the Library of the Minnesota Historical Society is its great collection of newspapers. This is one of its best lines of work for the preservation of the history of Minnesota, well performed to the present time, and needful to be continued for future generations.

In addition to the benefit of the newspapers as mere history, and as furnishing the materials of better history in the future and of the events that are occurring today, better than we can get elsewhere, this collection is of vast business value to the State. It has been well remarked, that every piece of property, in every State, at least once

Library of Congress

in a generation, upon the average, passes through the hands of the law, under an administrator or sheriff or trustees or some legal proceedings, by which the title to the property is derived. Those proceedings are all advertised and referred to in the newspapers. Thus we have here, and the Minnesota Historical Society is perpetuating, the history of the title of every man's property in the State of Minnesota.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have detained you too long. I only intended to touch upon some features of the society's 636 work that had not been mentioned before, but I wanted you all to know, and we want the public to know, that this society has done good work for the people of Minnesota. This work must be continued, and it deserves the good will of the public and of the State.

Previous to the address by Colonel Clough, a song, composed by Von Suppe, entitled "My Native Land," was sung by Mr. J. Warren Turner, of Minneapolis, with piano accompaniment by Mr. Charles G. Titcomb.

After that address the audience rose and sang

AMERICA.

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride, From every mountain-side Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee, Land of the noble, free, Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills, Like that above.

Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee I sing; Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light, Protect us by Thy might. Great God, our King.

The Anniversary Celebration was then concluded with a benediction by Bishop Whipple.